# 三国志 51

## 姜維の帰順

横山光輝

希望コミックス 156

SANGOKUSHI

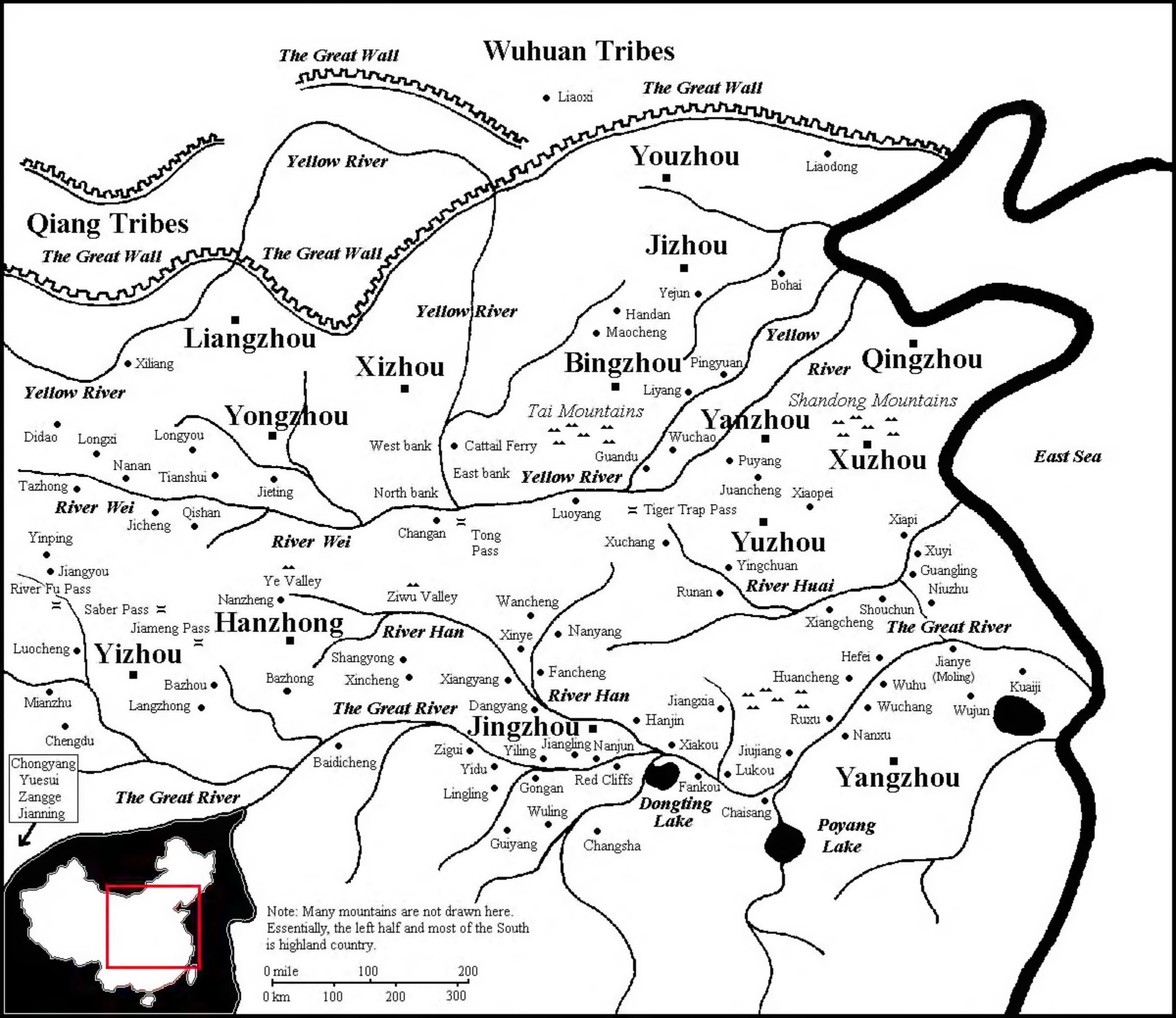
51

JIANG WEI'S SUBMISSION

YOKOYAMA MITSUTERU

GUAN XING




Wuhuan Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Liaoxi
Youzhou
Liaodong
Yellow River
Qiang Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Jizhou
Bohai
Yejun
Handan
Maocheng
Yellow River
Liangzhou
Xizhou
Bingzhou
Pingyuan
Yellow River
Qingzhou
Xiliang
Yellow River
Liyang
Shandong Mountains
Tai Mountains
Yongzhou
Yanzhou
Didao
Longxi
Longyou
West bank
Cattail Ferry
Wuchao
Guandu
Xuzhou
East Sea
Nanan
East bank
Yellow River
Puyang
Tianshui
Tazhong
Jieting
North bank
Juancheng
Xiaopei
River Wei
Qishan
Luoyang
Tiger Trap Pass
Jicheng
Changan
Tong Pass
Xiapi
Yuzhou
Yinping
River Wei
Xuchang
Xuyi
Jiangyou
Ye Valley
Yingchuan
Guangling
River Fu Pass
Ziwu Valley
Runan
River Huai
Niuzhu
Saber Pass
Nanzheng
Wancheng
Shouchun
Jiameng Pass
Hanzhong
River Han
Xinye
Nanyang
Xiangcheng
The Great River
Luocheng
Yizhou
Shangyong
Hefei
Jianye (Moling)
Fancheng
Huancheng
Bazhou
Bazhong
Xincheng
Xiangyang
Wuhu
Kuaiji
River Han
Jiangxia
Mianzhu
Langzhong
The Great River
Dangyang
Wuchang
Wujun
Ruxu
Hanjin
Jingzhou
Chengdu
Nanxu
Zigui
Yiling
Jiangling
Nanjun
Xiakou
Jiujiang
Baidicheng
Yidu
Lukou
Yangzhou
Chongyang
Yuesui
Zangge
Jianning
Red Cliffs
Fankou
Gongan
Lingling
Dongting Lake
Chaisang
Wuling
Poyang Lake
Guiyang
Changsha
The Great River
Note: Many mountains are not drawn here.
Essentially, the left half and most of the South
is highland country.
0 mile 100 200
0 km 100 200 300

# MAJOR CHARACTERS OF SANGOKUSHI



CAI MAO:
FORMER GENERAL OF LIU BIAO, WHO BECAME THE SUPREME ADMIRAL OF WEI'S NAVY WHEN JINGZHOU SURRENDERED TO CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 25, HE IS FRAMED BY ZHOU YU'S PLOT AND THUS EXECUTED BY CAO CAO.



CAO CAO MENGDE:
THE AMBITIOUS AND MACHIAVELLIAN HERO OF SANGOKUSHI. RISES TO BECOME KING OF WEI BUT DECLINES TO BECOME EMPEROR HIMSELF. PASSES AWAY FROM ILLNESS IN VOLUME 42.



CAO HONG:
YOUNGER COUSIN OF CAO CAO AND NOW HIS LOYAL GENERAL.



CAO PI:
CAO CAO'S ELDEST SON WHO SUCCEEDS TO KING OF WEI AND DETHRONES LAST HAN EMPEROR TO BECOME THE FIRST WEI EMPEROR. HE PASSES AWAY DUE TO ILLNESS IN VOLUME 49.



CAO RUI:
ELDEST SON OF CAO PI. SUCCEEDS AFTER HIS FATHER TO BECOME THE SECOND WEI EMPEROR.



CAO REN:
COUSIN OF CAO CAO AND NOW HIS LOYAL GENERAL. PORTRAYED AS BRAVE BUT HOT-TEMPERED IN THE STORY.



CHENG GONG:
A CITY GUARD CAPTAIN WHO ARRESTED CAO CAO, ONLY TO FREE AND ESCAPE WITH HIM AFTER SYMPATHIZING WITH HIS STORY. HOWEVER, HE LATER DEFECTS TO LU BU AND SERVES AS HIS ADVISOR. IN VOLUME 14, HE IS EXECUTED ALONG WITH LU BU.



CHENG YU:
IMPORTANT AND LOYAL STRATEGIST SERVING CAO CAO.



CHEN DENG:
THE SON OF CHEN GUI AND FORMERLY TAO QIAN OF XUZHOU'S SUBORDINATE. HE AND HIS FATHER SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED LU BU'S DOWNFALL.



CHEN GUI:
FATHER OF CHEN DENG WHO SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED LU BU'S DOWNFALL. DESPITE SECRETLY WORKING TOGETHER WITH LIU BEI AGAINST CAO CAO, CAO CAO SPARES HIS LIFE AND ALLOWS HIM TO CONTINUE LIVING IN XUZHOU.



DIAN WEI:
CAO CAO'S PERSONAL BODYGUARD, RENOWNED FOR HIS STRENGTH. HE IS ALSO KNOWN BY THE NICKNAME, "E LAI," IN REFERENCE TO THE GENERAL OF THE SAME NAME WHO SERVED UNDER KING ZHOU OF SHANG. IN VOLUME 12, HE WAS KILLED DURING ZHANG XIU'S PLOT TO KILL CAO CAO.



DIAO CHAN:
A MAID TO WANG YUN, WHO RAISED HER AS HIS OWN DAUGHTER. SHE AND WANG YUN PLOTTED TO DISTANCE LU BU FROM DONG ZHUO BY HAVING HER SEDUCE BOTH MEN. IN VOLUME 8, SHE COMMITTED SUICIDE AFTER ACCOMPLISHING HER GOAL.



DONG CHENG:
ELDER STATESMAN OF HAN WHO IS EMPEROR XIAN'S CONFIDANT. EMPEROR XIAN SECRETELY ASKS HIM TO ELIMINATE CAO CAO, WHO NOW RULES THE IMPERIAL COURT AS CHANCELLOR. IN VOLUME 17, HE IS EXECUTED AFTER HIS ASSASSINATION PLOT IS FOUND OUT BY CAO CAO.



DONG ZHUO:
GOVERNOR OF LIANGZHOU WHO LATER SEIZED CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND SEATED HIMSELF AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN, BECOMING AN INFAMOUS TYRANT. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS BETRAYED AND KILLED BY HIS RIGHT-HAND MAN, LU BU.



EMPRESS HE:
ORIGINALY A PEASANT, HER BEAUTY WAS NOTICED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS AND SHE ROSE TO BECOME THE EMPRESS, UTILIZING RUTHLESS MEANS. HOWEVER, SHE AND HER SON WERE REMOVED FROM POWER AND KILLED BY DONG ZHUO WHEN HE CAME TO POWER.



FA ZHENG:
FORMER SUBJECT OF LIU ZHANG, BUT DEFECTED TO LIU BEI DURING HIS CONQUEST OF SHU. HE IS ONE OF LIU BEI'S KEY STRATEGISTS.



GAN NING:
FORMER-PIRATE WHO IS NOW A FIRECE GENERAL OF WU.



GONGSUN ZAN:
GOVERNOR OF BEIPING, WHO WAGES WAR AGAINST YUAN SHAO FOR KILLING HIS YOUNG BROTHER. IN VOLUME 15, YUAN SHAO'S ARMY CONQUERS BEIPING, CAUSING GONGSUN ZAN TO COMMIT SUICIDE.



GUAN PING:
GUAN YU'S ADOPTED SON AS OF VOLUME 19. SERVES ALONGSIDE HIS FATHER UNTIL THEIR DEATH IN VOLUME 42.



GUAN XING:
GUAN YU'S SECOND SON, WHO BECOMES A PROMINENT SHU OFFICER AFTER HIS FATHER'S DEATH.



GUAN YU YUNCHANG:
SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER TO LIU BEI AND SWORN OLDER BROTHER TO ZHANG FEI. AFTER THE FAILED SIEGE ON FANCHENG, HE IS EVENTUALLY CAUGHT BY WU FORCES AND PROMPTLY EXECUTED IN VOLUME 42.



GUO JIA:
THE TALENTED STRATEGIST AND ADVISOR TO CAO CAO. HE DIES FROM ILLNESS DURING CAO CAO'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE YUAN FAMILY (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).



HE JIN:
ORIGINALLY A SIMPLE BUTCHER, HE BECAME A GENERAL WHEN HIS YOUNGER SISTER ROSE TO BECOME EMPRESS HE. HE IS KILLED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS DURING THEIR POWER STRUGGLE IN VOLUME 3.



HUANG GAI:
LOYAL GENERAL OF WU, WHOSE FAMILY HAS SERVED THE SUN FAMILY FOR THREE GENERATIONS.



HUANG ZHONG:
AN ELDERLY WARRIOR GENERAL RENOWNED ESPECIALLY FOR HIS SKILL WITH THE BOW. FORMERLY SERVED LIU BIAO AND HAN XUAN BUT DEFECTS TO LIU BEI IN VOLUME 28. FALLS IN BATTLE AGAINST WU FORCES IN VOLUME 43.



HUA XIN:
WEI MINISTER WHO RISES TO BECOME CHANCELLOR OF WEI UNDER CAO PI'S REIGN.



JIANG QIN:
GENERAL OF WU. FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH ZHOU TAI, BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE OUT OF ADMIRATION FOR SUN CE'S FATHER, SUN JIAN.



JIANG WEI:
NATIVE OF JICHENG AND FAMED FOR BOTH HIS MENTAL AND MARTIAL PROWESS. ORIGINALLY SERVED WEI, BUT DEFECTED TO SHU IN VOLUME 51 AFTER KONGMING'S PLAN TURNED HIS WEI ALLIES AGAINST HIM.



JIA XU:
FORMER STRATEGIST OF ZHANG XIU, WHO PLOTTED A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON CAO CAO, WHICH LEFT DIAN WEI DEAD. AS OF VOLUME 16, HE HAS DEFECTED TO CAO CAO AND SERVES AS HIS ADVISOR.



LI DIAN:
SCHOLARLY GENERAL UNDER THE SERVICE OF CAO CAO.



LI RU:
CUNNING ADVISOR TO DONG ZHUO. WITH HIS ADVICE, DONG ZHUO FIRMLY SECURES HIS SEAT AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS KILLED ALONG WITH DONG ZHUO WHEN LU BU BETRAYS THEM.



LIU BIAO:
THE GOVERNOR OF JINGZHOU. HE PASSES AWAY DUE TO SICKNESS IN VOLUME 22 AND THE CONSEQUENT SUCCESSION CRISIS ALLOWS CAO CAO TO TAKE OVER JINGZHOU.



LIU BEI XUANDE:
THE CENTRAL CHARACTER OF SANGOKUSHI. A VIRTUOUS MAN, WHO CLAIMS DESCENT FROM EMPEROR JING OF HAN. HE HAS SWORN AN OATH OF BROTHERHOOD WITH GUAN YU AND ZHANG FEI. HE BECOMES AN EMPEROR AND ESTABLISHES A SUCCESOR-DYNASTY TO HAN IN VOLUME 43.



LIU FENG:
LIU BEI'S ADOPTED SON. ORIGINALLY THE NEPHEW OF LIU MI, HE WAS ADOPTED UPON FIRST SIGHT BY LIU BEI WHO TOOK A LIKING TO HIM IN VOLUME 21. HE IS UNFORTUNATELY EXECUTED BY LIU BEI IN VOLUME 43 AFTER DENYING AID TO GUAN YU.



LIU QI:
ELDEST SON OF LIU BIAO WHO TEMPORARILY LOSES HIS INHERITANCE OF JINGZHOU DUE TO CAI MAO'S PLOT. IN VOLUME 29, HE PASSES AWAY FROM ILLNESS AND THE RIGHTFUL OWNERSHIP OF JINGZHOU CONTINUES TO BE DEBATED BETWEEN SUN QUAN AND LIU BEI.



LIU ZHANG:
INCOMPETENT RULER OF SHU (ALTERNATIVE NAME FOR YIZHOU). HE SEEKS LIU BEI'S HELP TO FEND OFF ZHANG LU, BUT RELATIONS SOON SOUR AND LIU BEI USURPS HIS RULE OVER SHU. AS OF VOLUME 35, HE IS EXILED TO JINGZHOU.



LU BU:
ALTHOUGH REPUTED TO BE THE STRONGEST WARRIOR, HE IS HOT-HEADED AND RARELY HEEDS WISE ADVICE. IN VOLUME 14, HE WAS BETRAYED BY HIS SUBORDINATES, AND EXECUTED BY CAO CAO.



LU MENG:
FIRECE WU GENERAL, WHO AT LAST CONQUERS JINGZHOU FOR SUN QUAN, CAPTURING GUAN YU IN DOING SO. UNFORTUNATELY DIES TO A SUDDEN ILLNESS AFTER GUAN YU'S EXECUTION IN VOLUME 42, CAUSING SOME TO THINK HE WAS CURSED.



LU SU:
IMPORTANT MILITARY GENERAL AND ADVISOR OF WU.



LU XUN:
TALENTED WU OFFICIAL WHO QUICKLY RISES TO FAVOUR AFTER SUCCESSFULLY PLANNING THE CONQUEST OF JINGZHOU.



MA CHAO:
ONE OF THE FIVE TIGER GENERALS OF SHU, WHO ONCE SOUGHT TO AVENGE HIS FATHER'S DEATH AT CAO CAO'S HANDS BEFORE ENTERING LIU BEI'S SERVICE IN VOLUME 35. HE PASSES AWAY DUE TO ILLNESS IN VOLUME 49.



MA DAI:
A NEPHEW OF MA CHAO WHO ENTERS LIU BEI'S SERVICE ALONGSIDE HIS UNCLE.



MA LIANG:
AN ADVISOR TO LIU BEI. HE IS THE FOURTH YOUNGEST OF THE FIVE MA BROTHERS, AND IS NOTED FOR HIS INTELLECT AND WHITE EYEBROWS. HE PASSES AWAY DUE TO ILLNESS IN VOLUME 46.



MA SU:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF MA LIANG, WHO, UPON REPORTING THE PASSING OF MA LIANG, CAUGHT THE ATTENTION OF KONGMING AND ASSISTED THE SOUTHERN CAMPAIGNS. HE HAS SINCE BECOME AN IMPORTANT STRATEGIST OF SHU.



MA TENG:
GOVERNOR OF XILIANG AND FATHER OF MA CHAO, WHO SIGNED THE BLOOD-PLEDGE TO ELIMINATE CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 30, HE IS EXECUTED FOR A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT OF CAO CAO.



MENG DA:
FORMER SUBJECT OF LIU ZHANG WHO DEFECTS TO LIU BEI, ALONG WITH HIS GOOD FRIENDS ZHANG SONG AND FA ZHENG. HE LATER DEFECTS TO WEI IN VOLUME 43, AFTER REALIZING HE WOULD BE KILLED IN SHU TO BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR GUAN YU'S DEATH.



MENG HUO:
KING OF THE NANMAN TRIBES, WHO UNSUCCESSFULLY SUPPORTED A REVOLT IN SOUTHERN SHU. KONGMING'S SOUTHERN CAMPAIGNS WERE LAUNCHED IN RETALIATION. AFTER BEING CAPTURED AND RELEASED 7 TIMES, HE SURRENDERS AND BECOMES A LOYAL SUBJECT TO SHU.



MI ZHU:
ONE OF LIU BEI'S ADVISORS.



PANG DE:
FIERCE GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED MA TENG AND THEN MA CHAO. IN VOLUME 36, HE DEFECTS TO CAO CAO'S SERVICE DUE TO A TROUBLED RELATIONSHIP WITH ZHANG LU, THE LORD OF HANZHONG. PERISHES IN THE BATTLE OF FANCHENG AGAINST GUAN YU IN VOLUME 41.



PANG TONG SHIYUAN:
NICKNAMED THE YOUNG PHOENIX (FENGCHU), HE IS A MASTERFUL STRATEGIST SAID TO BE ZHUGE LIANG'S EQUAL. AFTER ENTERING LIU BEI'S SERVICE, HE TRAGICALLY MET AN EARLY DEATH IN SHU WHEN AMBUSHED BY ZHANG REN IN VOLUME 34.



SIMA YI ZHONGDA:
IMPORTANT MILITARY STRATEGIST OF WEI SINCE CAO CAO'S REIGN. UPON CAO RUI'S SUCCESSION TO THE WEI THRONE, HE WAS BRIEFLY FRAMED FOR TREASON BY ZHUGE LIANG, BUT WAS RESTORED TO POWER IN LIGHT OF THE GROWING CRISIS OF ZHUGE LIANG'S NORTHERN CAMPAIGN AGAINST WEI.



SHUI JING:
HIS REAL NAME IS SIMA HUI BUT HE IS MORE COMMONLY KNOWN BY HIS TAOIST NAME, SHUI JING (MEANING WATER MIRROR). HE IS THE TEACHER OF ZHUGE LIANG, PANG TONG, AND XU SHU.



SUN CE:
ELDEST SON OF SUN JIAN, WHO TURNS THE SUN FAMILY'S FORTUNE AROUND WITH HIS CONQUEST OF THE SOUTH-LANDS. IN VOLUME 19, A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AND CONFLICT WITH YU JI CAUSES HIS BODY AND MENTAL HEALTH TO WEAKEN. HE SUCCUMBS TO DEATH SHORTLY AFTER.



SUN JIAN:
THE GOVERNOR OF CHANGSHA WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ALLIANCE TO BRING DOWN DONG ZHUO. HOWEVER, HIS ALLIES LIU BIAO AND YUAN SHAO TO TURN ON HIM WHEN HE TRIES TO KEEP THE IMPERIAL SEAL FOR HIMSELF. IN VOLUME 7, HE IS KILLED IN BATTLE AGAINST YUAN SHAO.



SUN QIAN:
TRUSTED ADVISOR TO LIU BEI. (HIS ROLE IS MUCH SMALLER IN SANGOKUSHI COMPARED TO THE ORIGINAL NOVEL.)



SUN QUAN:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF SUN CE AND THE CURRENT RULER OF WU, THE SOUTHLANDS OF CHINA.



TAISHI CI:
GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED LIU YAO BUT DEFECTED TO SUN CE IN VOLUME 11. DURING THE BATTLE OF HEFEI (VOL. 29), HE FALLS PREY TO ZHANG LIAO'S PLAN AND IS KILLED IN BATTLE.



TAO QIAN:
THE KIND GOVERNOR OF XUZHOU WHO ACCIDENTALLY INVOKES CAO CAO'S WRATH WHEN HIS DISLOYAL SUBORDINATE ZHANG KAI KILLS CAO CAO'S FATHER, CAO SONG. UPON HIS DEATH, HE BEQUEATHS XUZHOU TO LIU BEI.



THE TEN ATTENDANTS:
A CORRUPT GROUP OF 10 EUNUCHS WHO WERE THE HIGHEST RANKING MINISTERS OF THE IMPERIAL COURT. THEY WERE KILLED DURING THE POWER STRUGGLE WITH HE JIN IN VOLUME 4.



WANG YUN:
THE MINISTER OF THE MASSES, ONE OF THE 3 HIGHEST RANKING POSTS IN THE IMPERIAL COURT. HE SUCCESSFULLY PLOTS DONG ZHUO'S DOWNFALL USING DIAO CHAN IN VOLUME 8. HOWEVER, HE IS LATER KILLED BY REMNANTS OF DONG ZHUO'S ARMY (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).



WEI YAN:
GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED LIU BIAO AND HAN XUAN BUT HAS DEFECTED TO LIU BEI ALONG WITH HUANG ZHONG IN VOLUME 28.



WEN CHOU:
HE AND YANG LIANG ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS. IN VOLUME 18, HE IS AMBUSHED BY CAO CAO'S ARMY AND KILLED BY GUAN YU.



XIAHOU DUN:
TRUSTED GENERAL OF CAO CAO. HE LOST HIS LEFT EYE DURING A BATTLE AGAINST LU BU'S ARMY IN VOLUME 13.



XU CHU:
TRUSTED BODYGUARD OF CAO CAO. ORIGINALY A PEASANT, HE WAS RECRUITED BY CAO CAO WHO WAS IMPRESSED AFTER SEEING XU CHU'S DUEL WITH DIAN WEI.



XU SHU (SHAN FU):
THE TALENTED STRATEGIST WHO STUDIED UNDER SHUI JING. AFTER A BRIEF STINT OF SERVICE TO LIU BEI, HE IS TRICKED INTO COMING TO XUCHANG AND SERVING CAO CAO (VOLUME 21).



XUN YU:
TALENTED ADVISOR TO CA CAO.



XU HUANG:
CALM AND COLLECTED GENERAL UNDER SERVICE TO CAO CAO. CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE FIVE TOP GENERALS OF WEI BY CHEN SHOU, AUTHOR OF RECORDS OF THE THREE KINGDOMS.



YAN LIANG:
HE AND WEN CHOU ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS. IN VOLUME 17, HE WAS KILLED BY GUAN YU WHILE FIGHTING CAO CAO'S ARMY AT BAIMA.



YAN YAN:
FORMER GENERAL OF LIU ZHANG BUT DEFECTED TO LIU BEI AFTER HIS CAPTURE AT ZHANG FEI'S HANDS IN VOLUME 34. HE IS NOTED FOR HIS ENERGY DESPITE HIS OLD AGE.



YU JIN:
GENERAL SERVING CAO CAO. CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE FIVE TOP GENERALS OF WEI BY CHEN SHOU, AUTHOR OF RECORDS OF THE THREE KINGDOMS.



YUAN SHAO:
OLDER BROTHER OF YUAN SHU AND THE GOVERNOR OF JIZHOU. AFTER MANY YEARS OF WARRING AGAINST CAO CAO FOR CONTROL OF NORTHERN CHINA, HE AND HIS FAMILY ARE DEFEATED.



YUAN SHU:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF YUAN SHAO AND THE GOVERNOR OF NANYANG. AFTER RECEIVING THE IMPERIAL SEAL FROM SUN CE, HE DECLARES HIMSELF AS THE EMPEROR OF ZHONG DYNASTY. IN VOLUME 15, HE DIES OF THIRST AFTER BEING ON THE RUN FROM LIU BEI AND CAO CAO'S ARMIES.



ZHANG BAO:
ELDEST SON OF ZHANG FEI, WHO RISES TO PROMINENCE AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER.



ZHANG FEI YIDE:
A FIRECE, SHORT-TEMPERED WARRIOR WHO IS THE SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER OF LIU BEI AND GUAN YU. HIS TEMPER EVENTUALLY GETS THE BETTER OF HIM, WHEN HE IS BETRAYED AND KILLED BY HIS SUBORDINATES IN VOLUME 43.



ZHANG LIAO:
ONE OF CAO CAO'S TOP GENERALS. HE WAS FORMERLY LU BU'S SUBORDINATE BUT DEFECTED TO CAO CAO AFTER THE FORMER'S EXECUTION.



ZHANG LU:
THE LEADER OF THE CELESTIAL MASTERS TAOIST MOVEMENT, AND THE RULER OF HANZHONG. IN VOLUME 36, CAO CAO CONQUERS HANZHONG BUT SPARES ZHANG LU.



ZHANG REN:
ONE OF SHU'S MOST CAPABLE GENERALS WHO PLANNED THE AMBUSH THAT KILLED PANG TONG. HE REFUSED TO SERVE LIU BEI UNLIKE MANY OF HIS COMRADES AND WAS THUS EXECUTED WHEN FINALLY CAPTURED AT THE HANDS OF ZHUGE LIANG (VOLUME 35).



ZHANG SONG:
AN ADVISOR TO LIU ZHANG WHO, UPON FAILING TO MAKE AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN CAO CAO AND LIU ZHANG, SOUGHT LIU BEI'S SUPPORT AND SWITCHED HIS ALLEGIANCE. IN VOLUME 34, HE IS EXECUTED WHEN HIS BROTHER REPORTS HIS BETRAYAL TO LIU ZHANG.



ZHANG XIU:
LORD OF WANCHENG WHO ATTEMPTED TO KILL CAO CAO DURING THE BATTLE OF WANCHENG IN VOLUME 12. AFTER YEARS OF CONFLICT AGAINST CAO CAO, HE FINALLY DECIDES TO DEFECT TO CAO CAO IN VOLUME 16.



ZHAO YUN ZILONG:
A FORMER SUBJECT OF YUAN SHAO BUT LATER DEFECTED TO SERVE GONGSUN ZAN. AFTER GONGSUN ZAN'S DEATH, HE BECOMES ONE OF LIU BEI'S MOST TRUSTED GENERALS.



ZHOU TAI:
GENERAL OF WU. FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH JIANG QIN BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE OUT OF ADMIRATION FOR HIS FATHER, SUN JIAN.



ZHANG ZHAO:
ELDER STATESMAN AND SUN QUAN'S TRUSTED ADVISOR. HE ORIGINALLY ENTERED SUN CE'S SERVICE ALONG WITH ZHANG HONG, WITH WHOM HE WAS REFERRED TO AS THE "TWO ZHANGS."



ZHOU CANG:
FORMERLY A YELLOW TURBAN, HE MEETS GUAN YU IN VOLUME 18 AND BECOMES HIS SUBORDINATE. COMMITS SUICIDE AFTER LEARNING GUAN YU WAS EXECUTED IN VOLUME 42.



ZHOU YU GONGJIN:
SWORN BROTHER OF SUN CE, AND ONE OF WU'S TOP MINDS, SERVING AS THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF DURING THE BATTLE OF THE RED CLIFFS. HE RECEIVES A CRITICAL ARROW-WOUND DURING HIS NANJUN CAMPAIGN (VOL. 27) WHICH HE NEVER FULLY RECOVERS FROM, LEADING TO HIS TRAGIC EARLY DEATH IN VOLUME 30.



ZHUGE LIANG KONGMING:
MASTERFUL STRATEGIST AND FORMER STUDENT OF SHUI JING. IN VOLUME 21, HE YIELDS TO LIU BEI'S PERSISTENCE AND DECIDES TO BECOME HIS SUBJECT.

# SANGOKUSHI (ROMANCE OF THE THREE KINGDOMS)

# 三国志

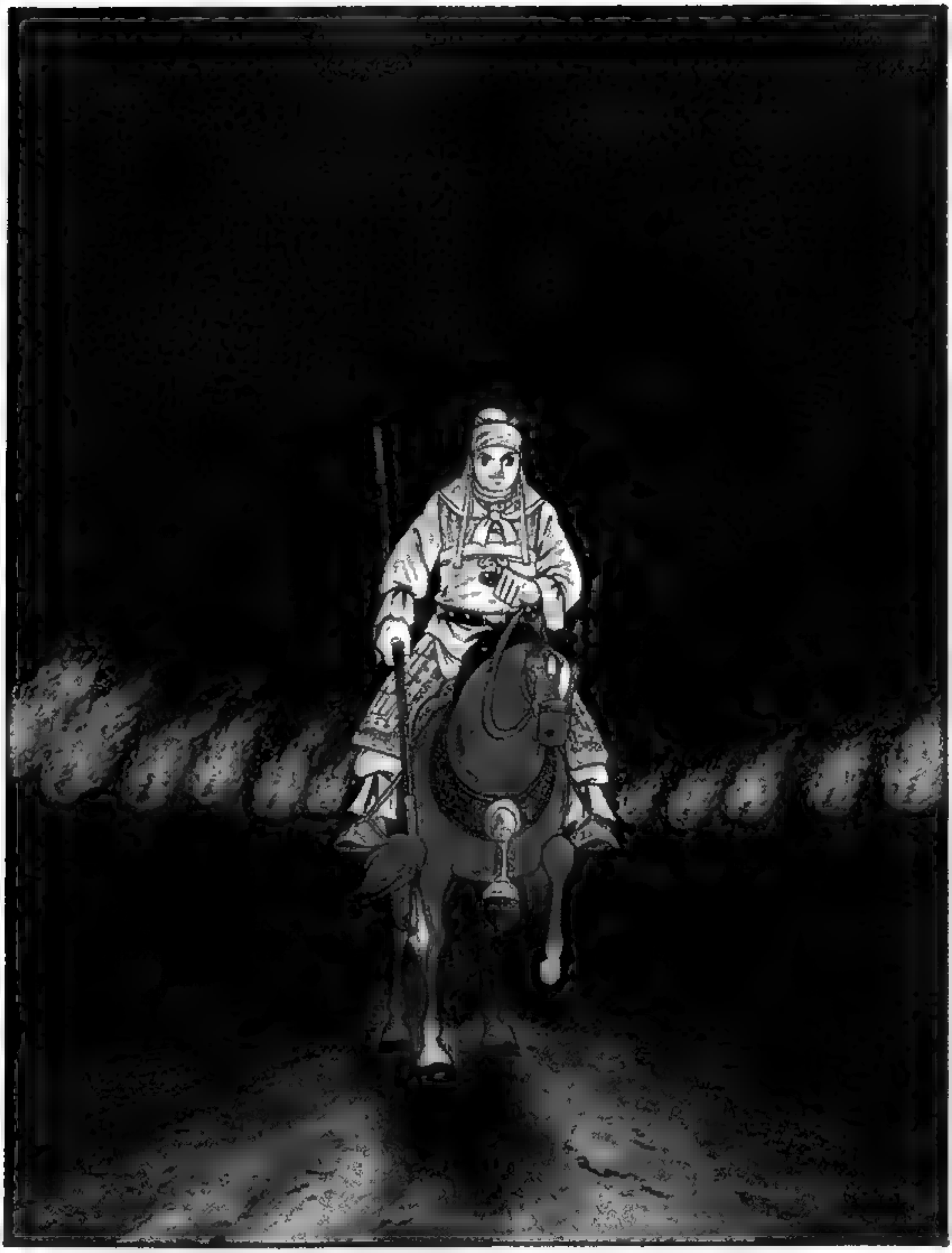
## VOLUME 51
## JIANG WEI'S SUBMISSION


A PILLAR OF WEI ..... 178
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（『ビッグコミックオリジナル』月刊誌掲載）

# BIRD WITHOUT A ROOST



SEE! I TOLD YOU HE TURNED HIMSELF OVER TO THE ENEMIES!

JIANG WEI!?

SILENCE! HOW DARE YOU TURN YOUR BACK ON WEI AFTER PROFITING FROM ITS BOUNTY!

HEAR ME, GARRISON OF TIANSHUI! I, JIANG WEI, HAVE SURRENDERED TO SHU AS PART OF THE NEGOTIATIONS TO FREE COMMANDER XIAHOU MAO! I RECOMMEND THE REST OF YOU TO SURRENDER NOW FOR THE SAKE OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILY'S LIVES, AS THIS WAR IS TO YOUR DISADVANTAGE!

XIAHOU MAO!? IS THAT REALLY YOU, SIR!?

HM!? WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN TIANSHUI OF ALL PLACES!?

THAT'S A BOLD-FACED LIE! I NEVER SENT ANY LETTER TO YOU ABOUT A SURRENDER! IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR EXCUSE FOR CONCEALING YOUR INTENT TO CHANGE SIDES ALL ALONG!?

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO WROTE A LETTER ADVISING ME TO SURRENDER IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR FREEDOM! AS SUCH, I FOLLOWED YOUR ORDERS AND HAVE TURNED OVER TO SHU! BUT IF YOU'RE HERE INSTEAD OF JICHENG... THEN I CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT YOU NEVER TRUSTED ME FROM THE START AND PLANNED TO RUN AWAY TO TIANSHUI!

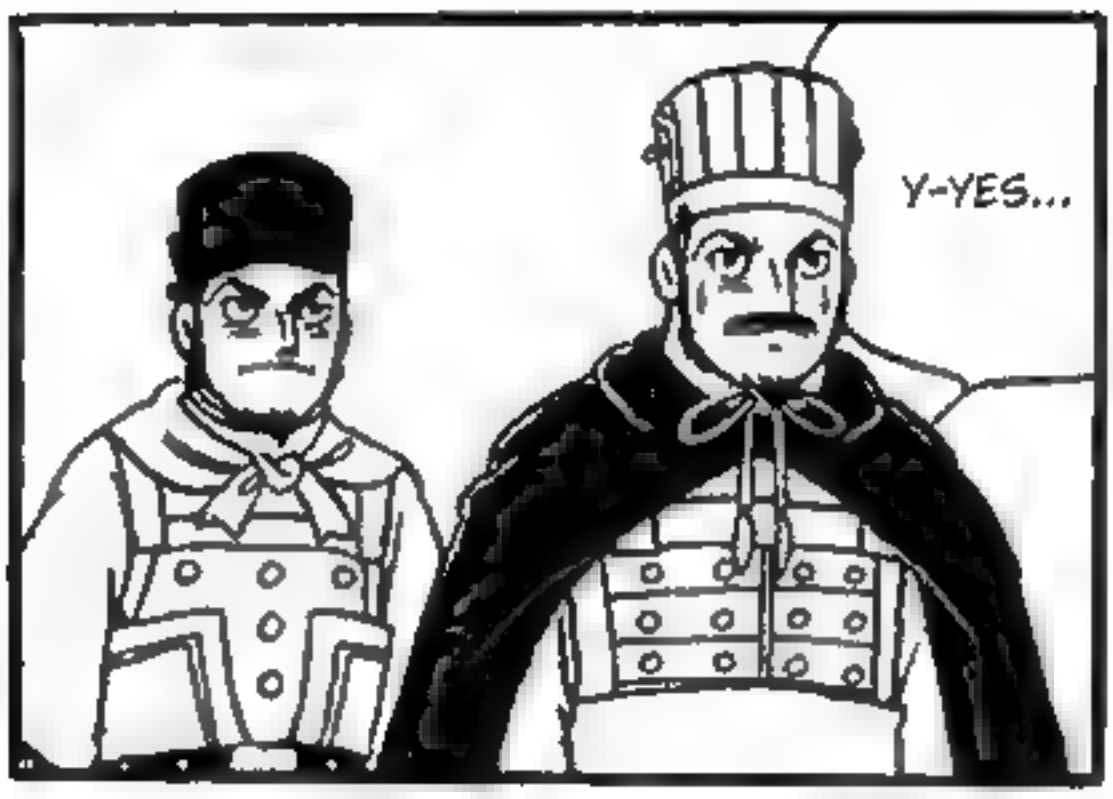
ATTACK!

YOU TWO-FACED COWARD...!

NGHH!

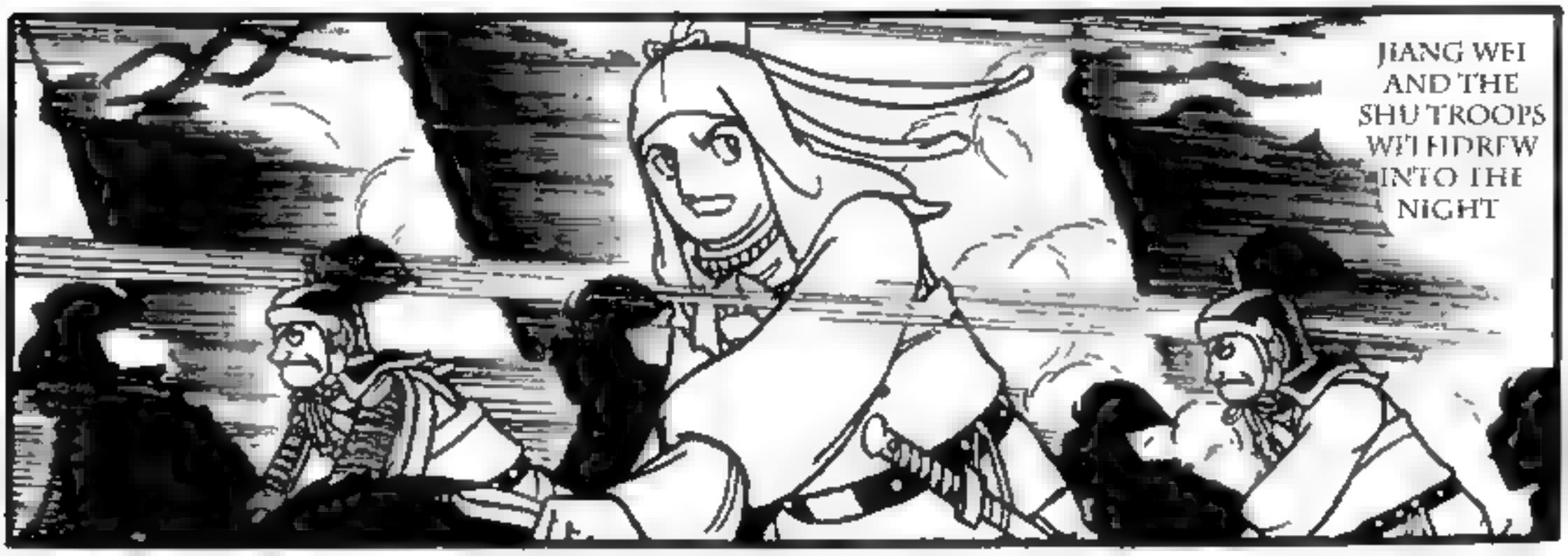
RIGHT.

SIR, IT IS TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO BE OUT HERE ON THE WALLS. PLEASE WITHDRAW INSIDE.


Y-YES...


WHAT DID I TELL YOU! THAT JIANG WEI IS CLEARLY A TRAITOR TO WEI!


AFTER KEEPING UP THE ATTACK FOR SOME TIME,


JIANG WEI AND THE SHU TROOPS WITHDREW INTO THE NIGHT

MOST DEFINITELY, SIR. AS THERE WERE ONLY A FEW TORCHES FAINTLY ILLUMINATING MY FACE IN THE DARK, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO CLEARLY MAKE OUT MY FACE FROM FAR.

DID THE ENEMIES BELIEVE YOU WERE JIANG WEI?

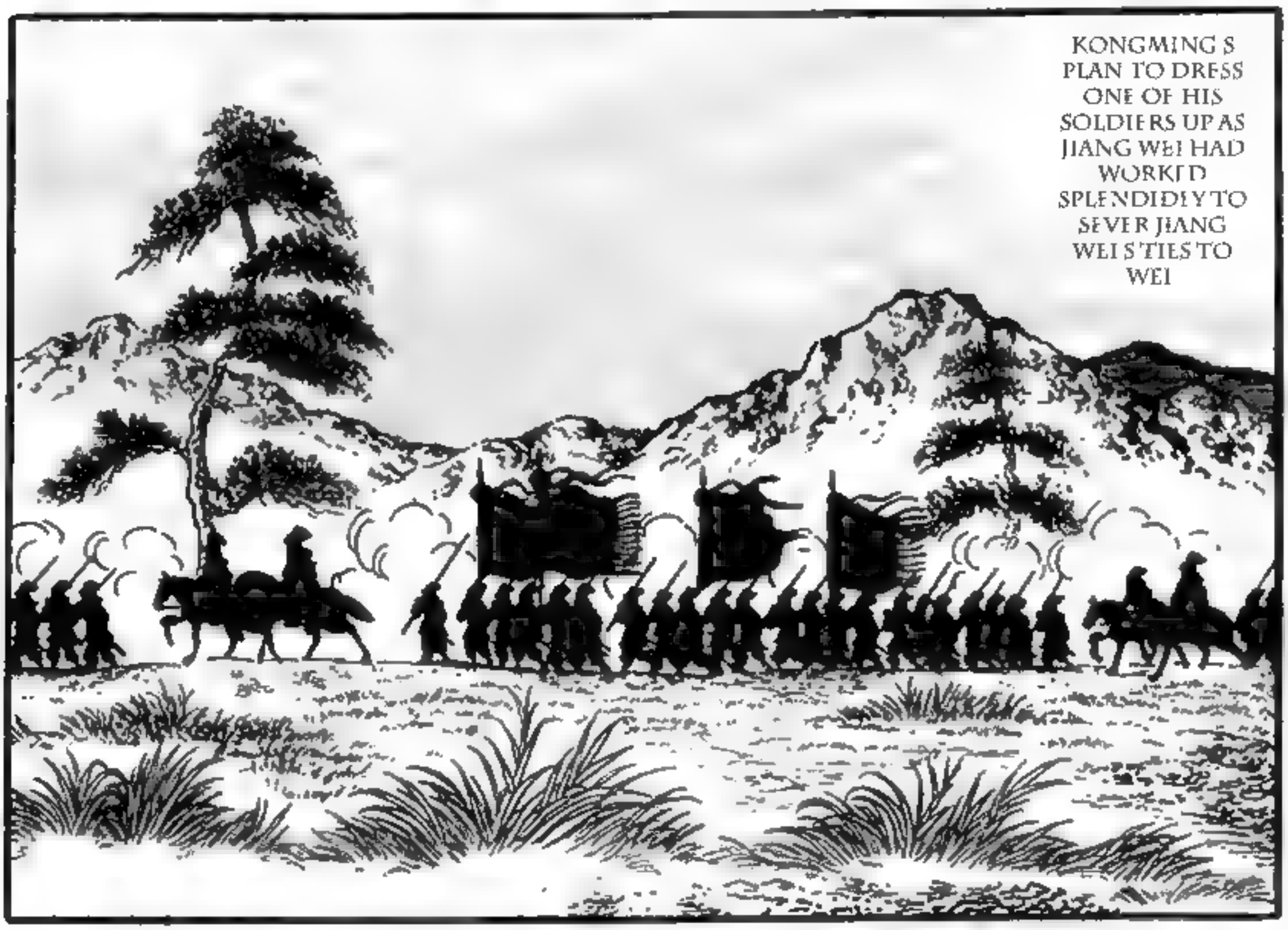
YES, SIR.

WELL DONE. YOU MAY TAKE A WELL-DESERVED REST FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE DAY.


WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO NOW, SIR?


WITH THAT, JIANG WEI NO LONGER HAS ANY ALLIES.


WE WILL NOW HEAD TO JICHENG, WHERE JIANG WEI IS STILL HOLED UP INSIDE.


KONGMING S PLAN TO DRESS ONE OF HIS SOLDIERS UP AS JIANG WEI HAD WORKED SPLENDIDLY TO SEVER JIANG WEI S TIES TO WEI


JICHENG
SHU FORCES HAVE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED US...

BUT WHAT?

BUT...

YOUR RESOLUTE SENTIMENTS ARE ADMIRABLE, GENERAL,

STILL, WHILE I AM STILL ALIVE, I REFUSE TO LET THIS CITY FALL.

IT'S NOT TOO SURPRISING CONSIDERING WE RUSHED OVER HERE TO JICHENG'S DEFENSE AND DID NOT HAVE THE TIME TO GATHER ADDITIONAL FOOD...

WHAT!?

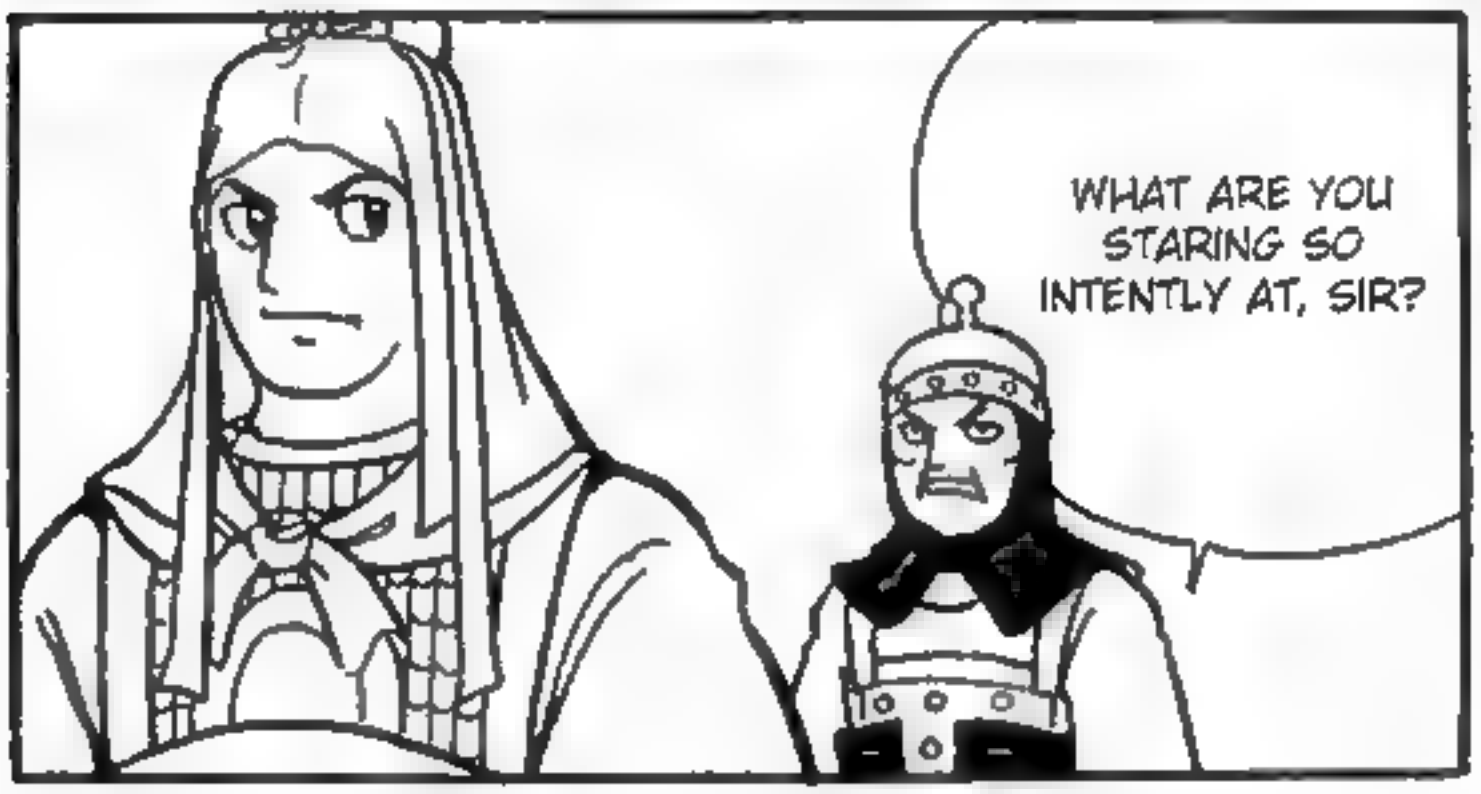
THE FOOD STORES HERE ARE ALMOST EMPTY, SIR.

MNN...

UNFORTU-NATELY YES.

SO EVEN OUR DETERMINED RESISTANCE WILL BREAK ONCE FOOD RUNS OUT...




WHAT ARE YOU STARING SO INTENTLY AT, SIR?




THAT.



IF WE CAN TAKE THEM, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HOLD OUT LONGER.

I SEE.

THOSE ARE SHU SUPPLY WAGONS TRAVELLING THROUGH THE NORTH ROAD.

YES, SIR.

THERE IS NO OTHER OPTION. GET THE TROOPS READY TO MARCH OUT.

WITH THE SITUATION MADE URGENT FROM A LACK OF FOOD, JIANG WEI LED OUT 3000 TROOPS

HM?

WHA?


RUN!
ENEMY ATTACK!

THIS WAY!


GREAT! HAULT THE WAGONS BACK INSIDE!


LET'S HURRY!



AHH!

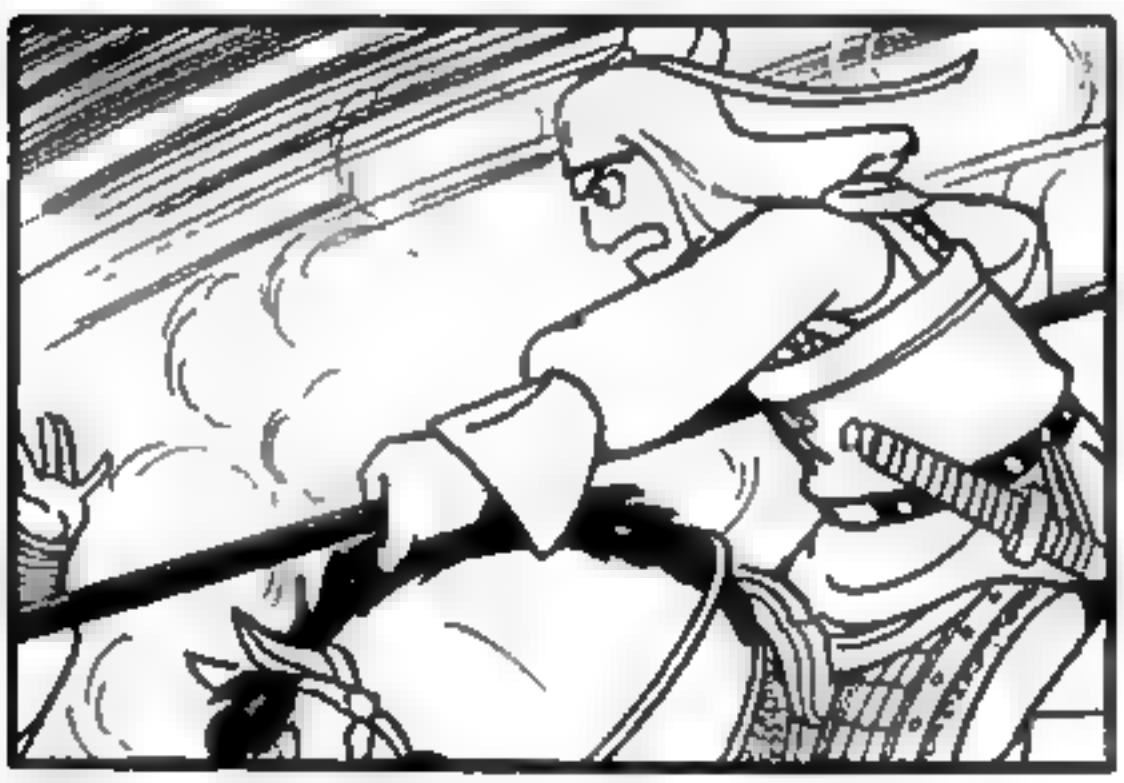
MN...

DID YOU THINK WE WOULD GIVE UP OUR FOOD SO EASILY, JIANG WEI!?

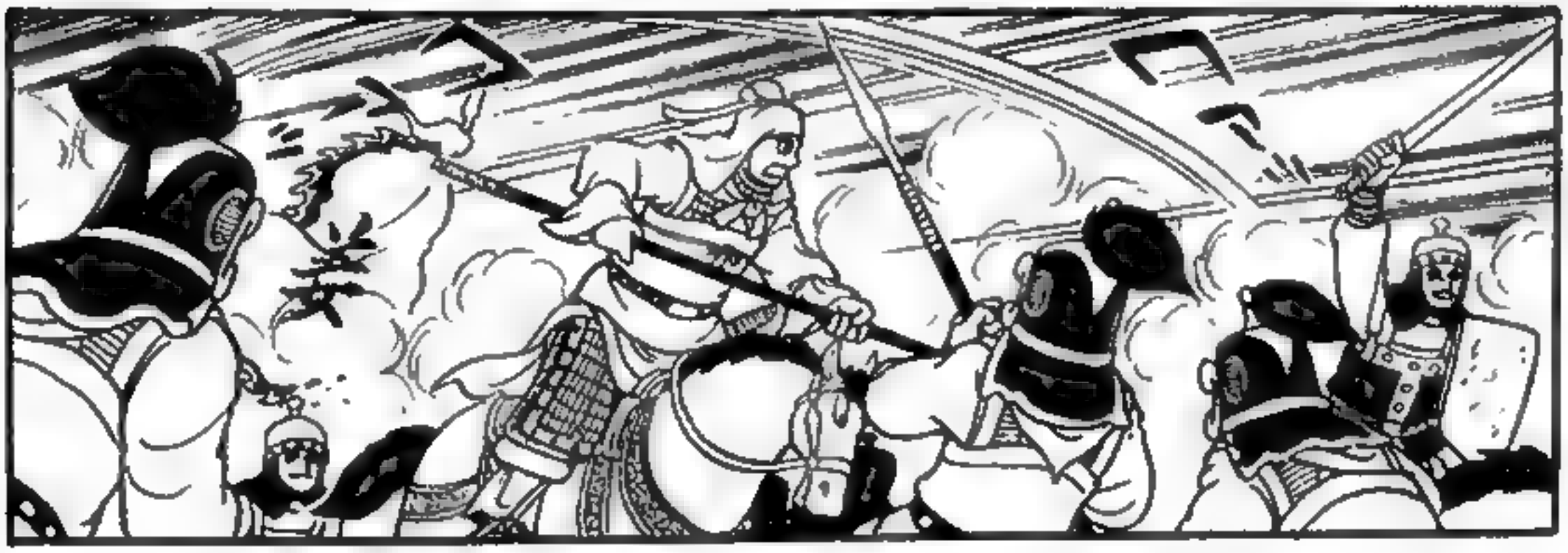
COME, MEN! JICHENG'S WALLS ARE JUST UP AHEAD! LET US FIGHT OUR WAY BACK INSIDE!


张


ATTACK!








HM?

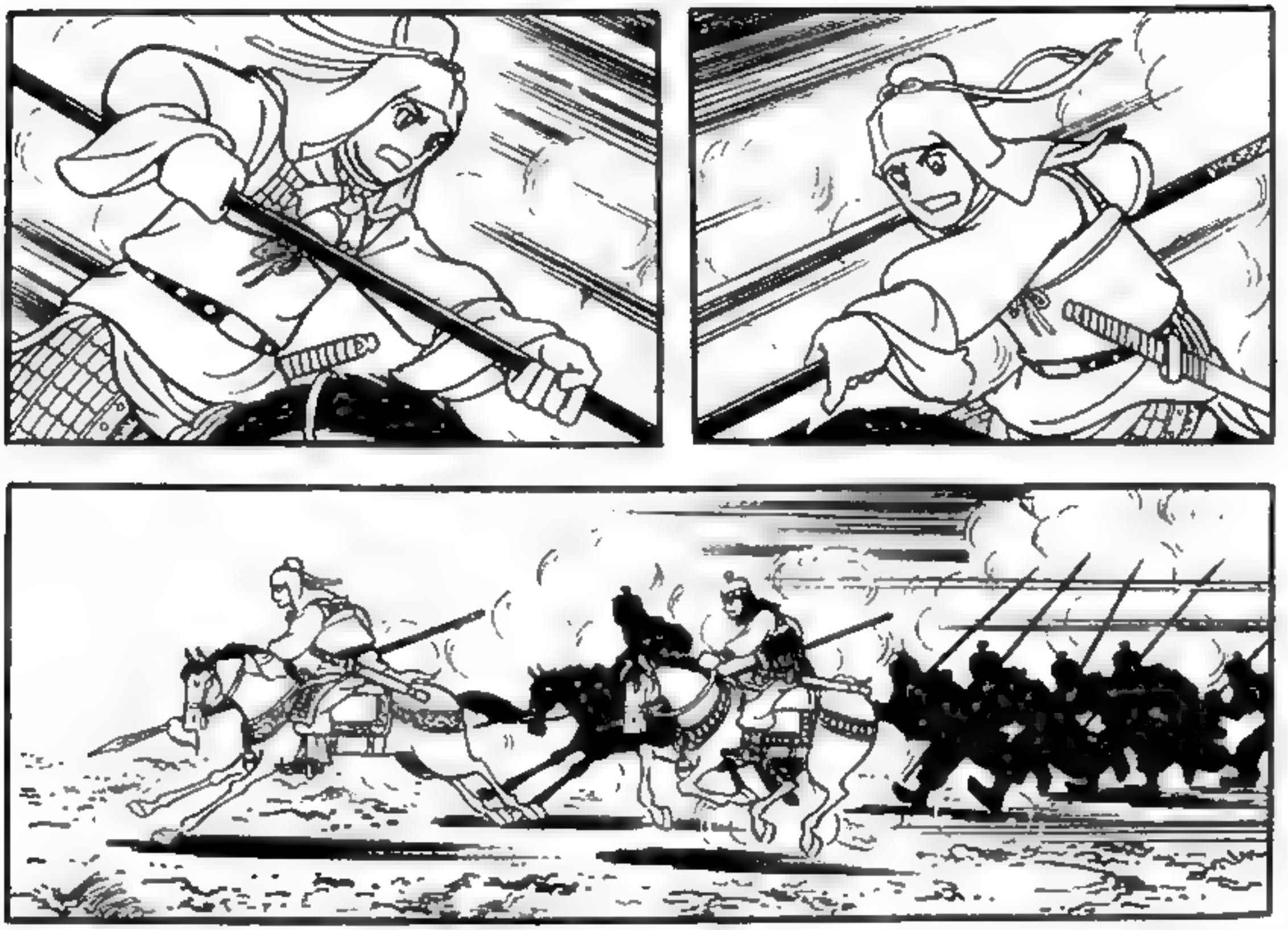



AHH!




THEN THERE'S EVEN LESS TIME TO PANIC! FIGHT YOUR WAY OUT NO MATTER WHAT!


SIR! ENEMIES SPOTTED TO OUR RIGHT AND LEFT FLANKS!



HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND? TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT WHOSE FLAG IS ON THESE WALLS!

OPEN THE GATES! THIS IS JIANG WEI!

SHU (蜀): WEI YAN (魏延)

蜀

魏延

蜀

THEN THOSE SUPPLY WAGONS WERE A BAIT FROM THE START...!?

THANKS TO YOUR TIMELY ABSENCE, IT WAS QUITE EASY CAPTURING JICHENG.

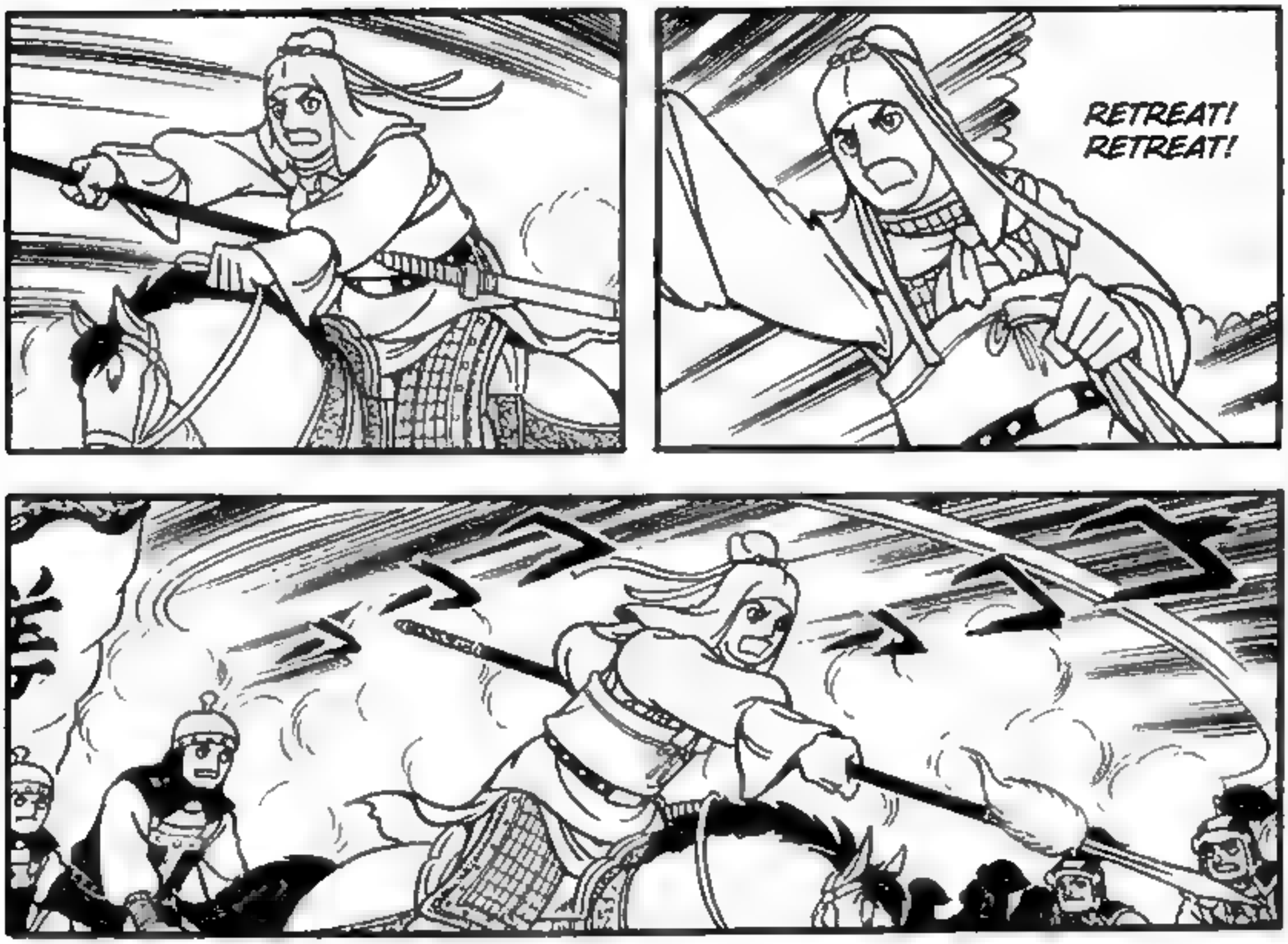
ATTACK!

IT'S TOO LATE TO REALIZE THAT NOW.

魏延

UGHH!

AGHH!


RETREAT!
RETREAT!

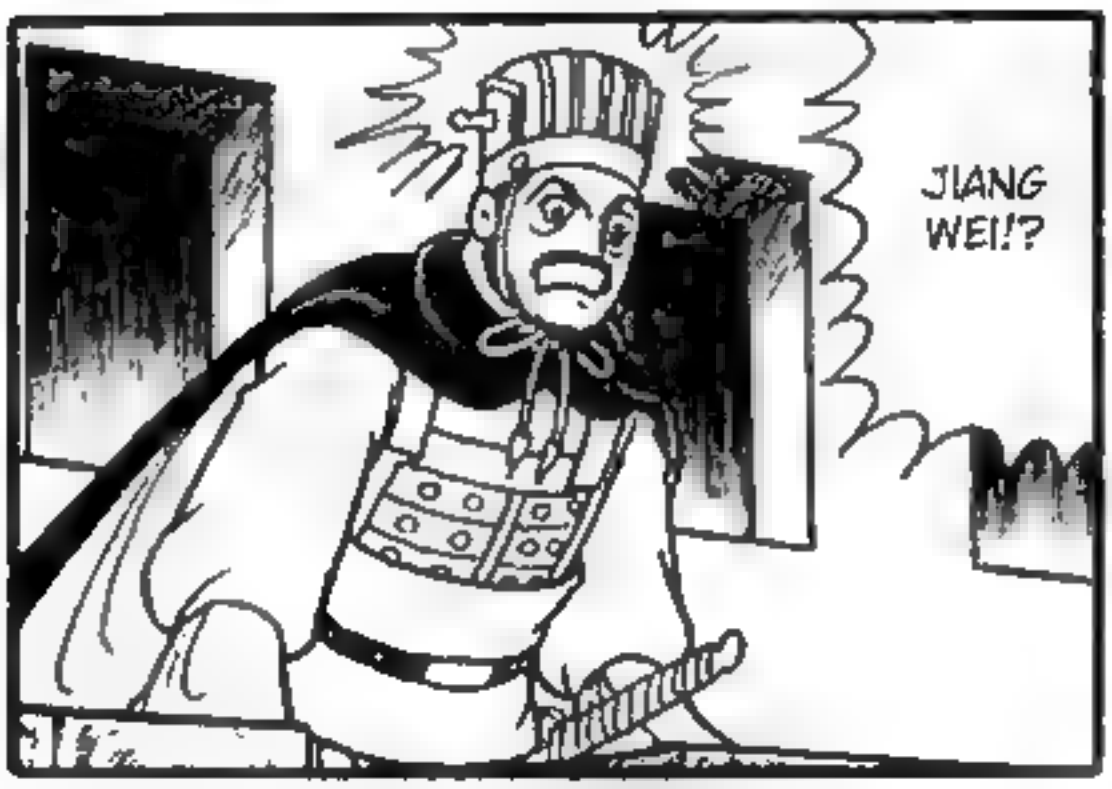
IN ANY CASE, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO HERE BY MYSELF. I SHOULD RETURN TO TIANSHUI FOR NOW.

I WONDER IF THE OTHERS WERE ABLE TO ESCAPE...

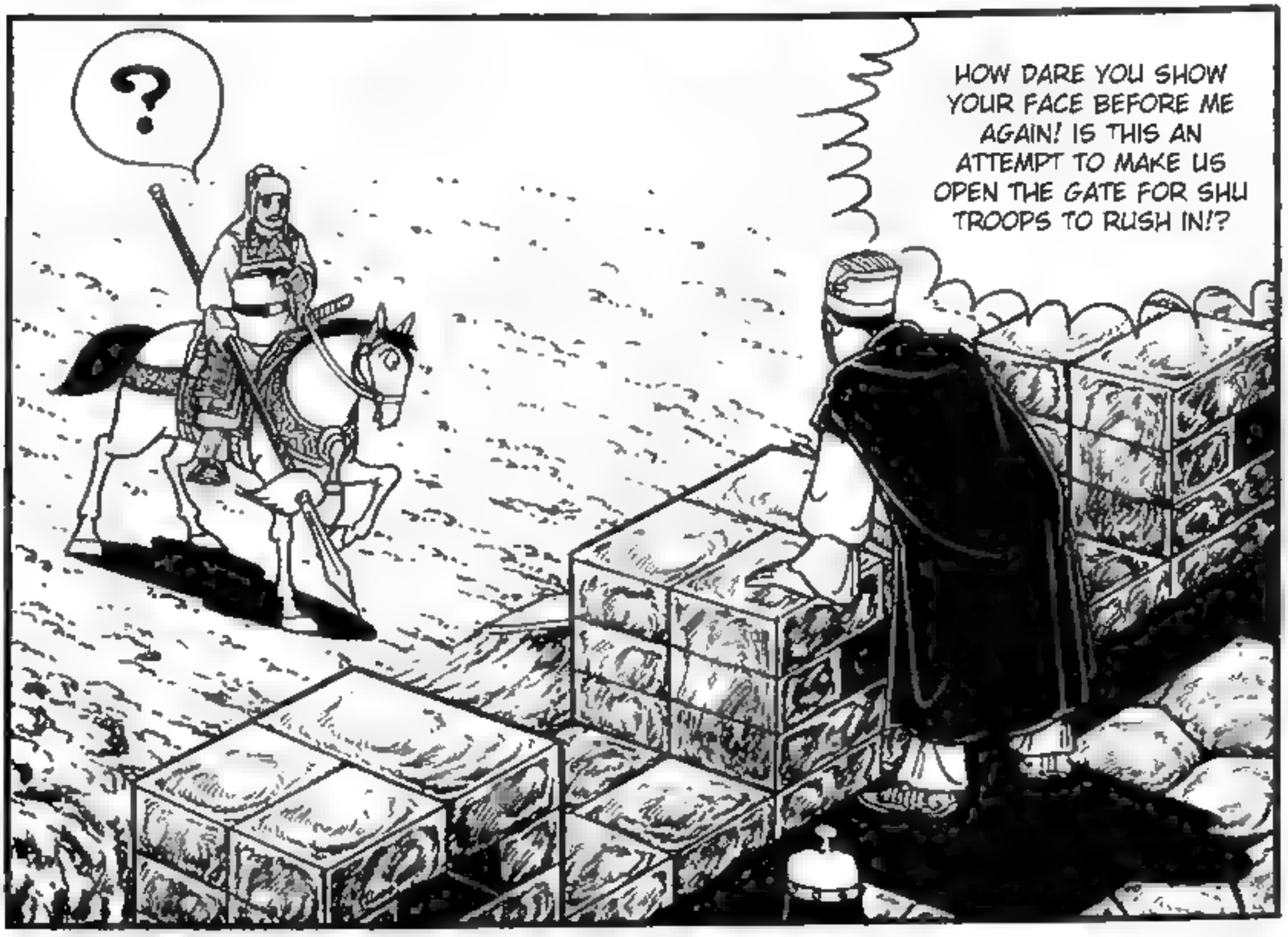


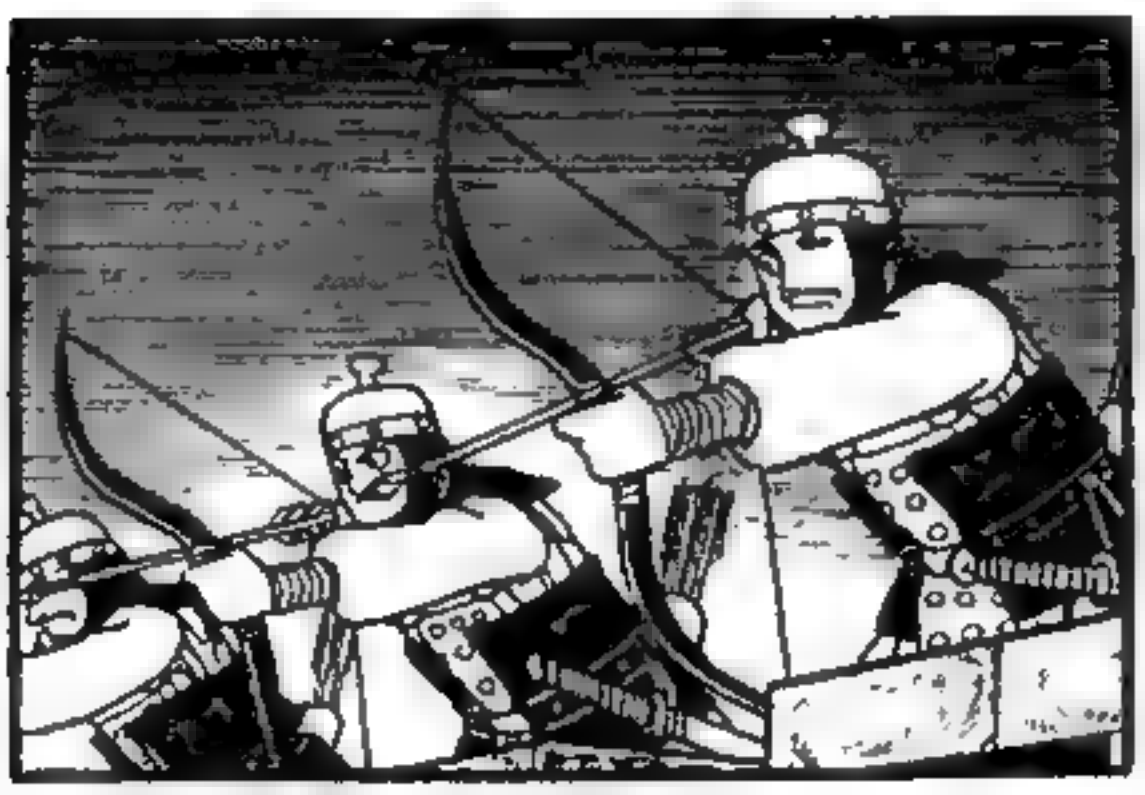

OPEN THE GATES!
THIS IS JIANG WEI!
I REGRETFULLY
REPORT THAT JICHENG
HAS BEEN LOST AND
I AM FORCED TO SEEK
REFUGE BACK HERE!




JIANG WEI!?

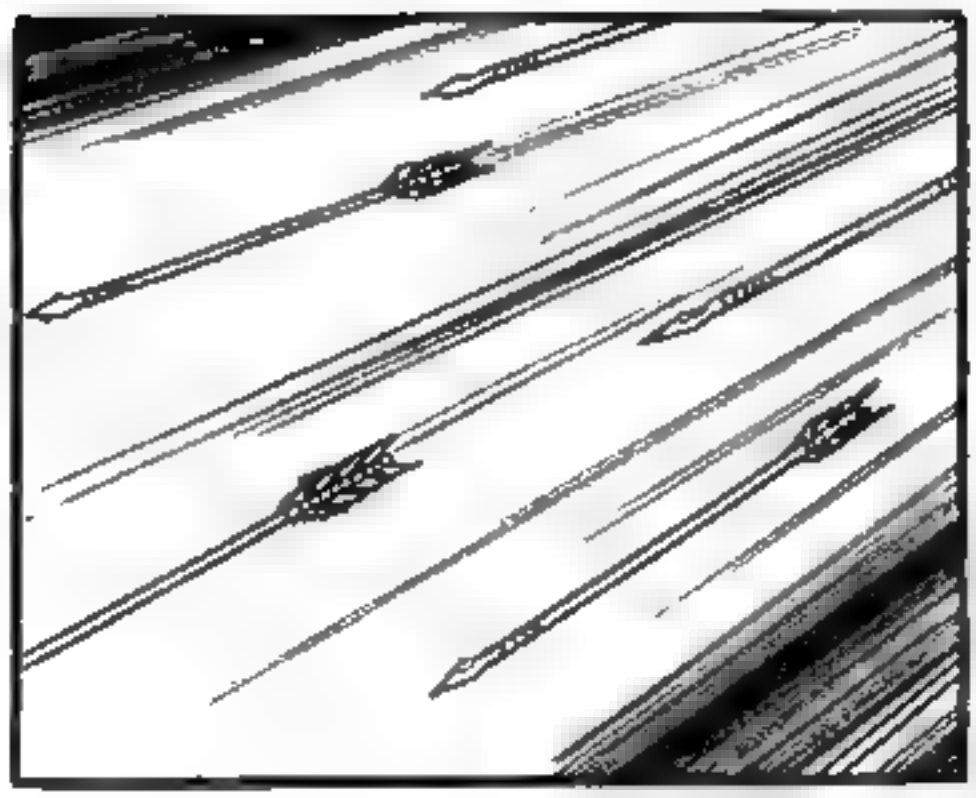

WHAT!?


?
HOW DARE YOU SHOW YOUR FACE BEFORE ME AGAIN! IS THIS AN ATTEMPT TO MAKE US OPEN THE GATE FOR SHU TROOPS TO RUSH IN!?




SHOOT THIS TRAITOR DOWN!

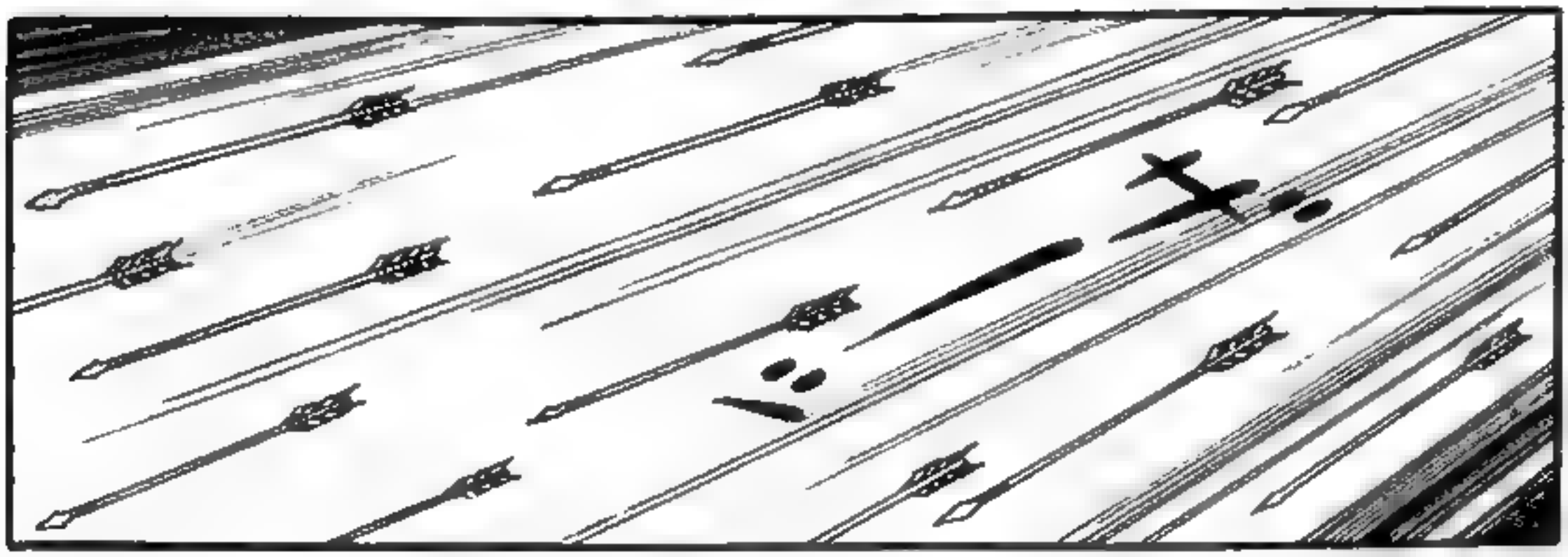

AGHH!




WHAT SANE MAN WOULD OPEN THE GATES FOR YOU WHEN YOU CAME TO ATTACK IT ALONG WITH THE ENEMIES LAST NIGHT!?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE EXACTLY PLANNING BUT DON'T THINK YOU CAN FOOL ME!

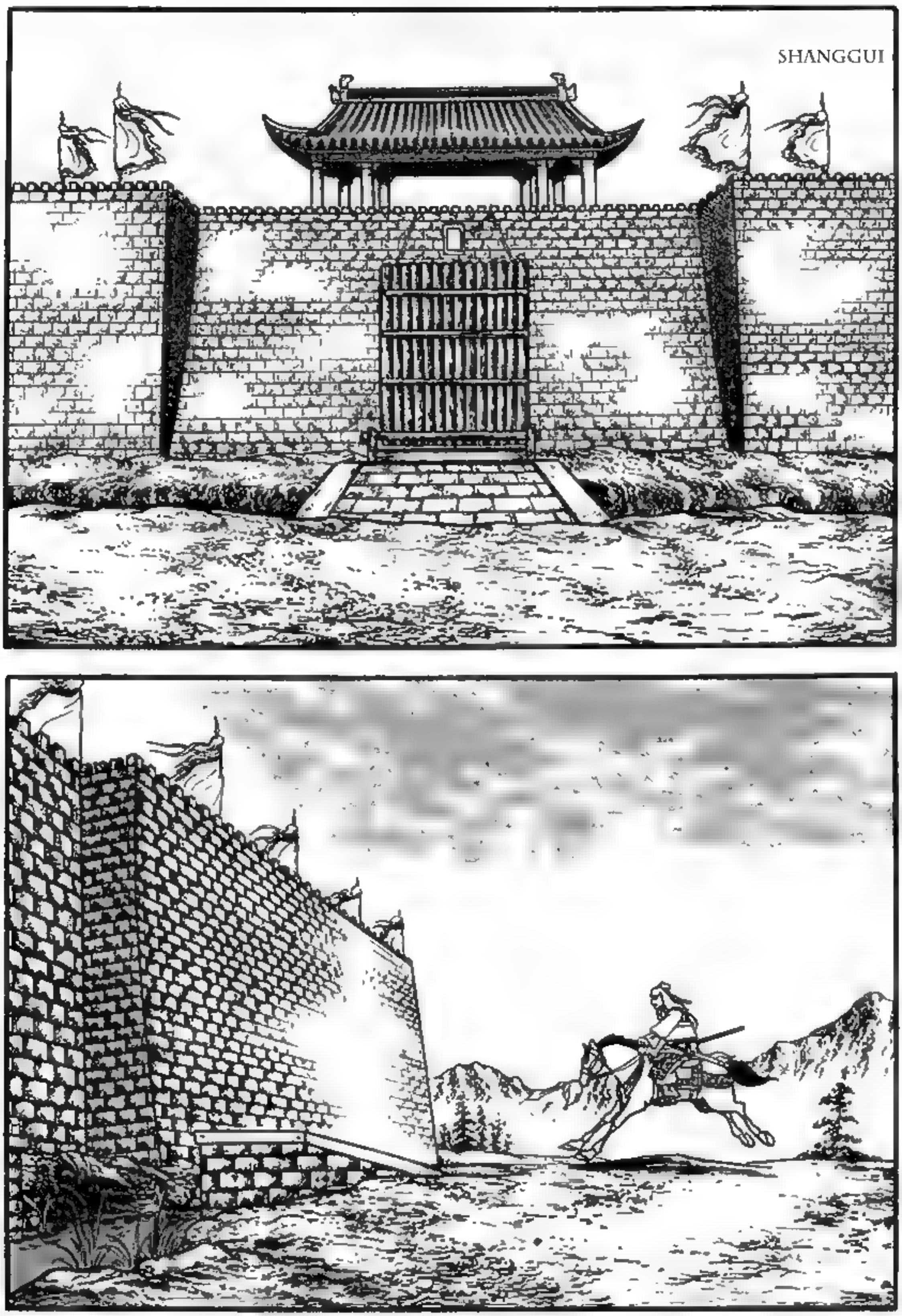

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS, GOVERNOR!?


REMOVE THIS EYESORE, ARCHERS!

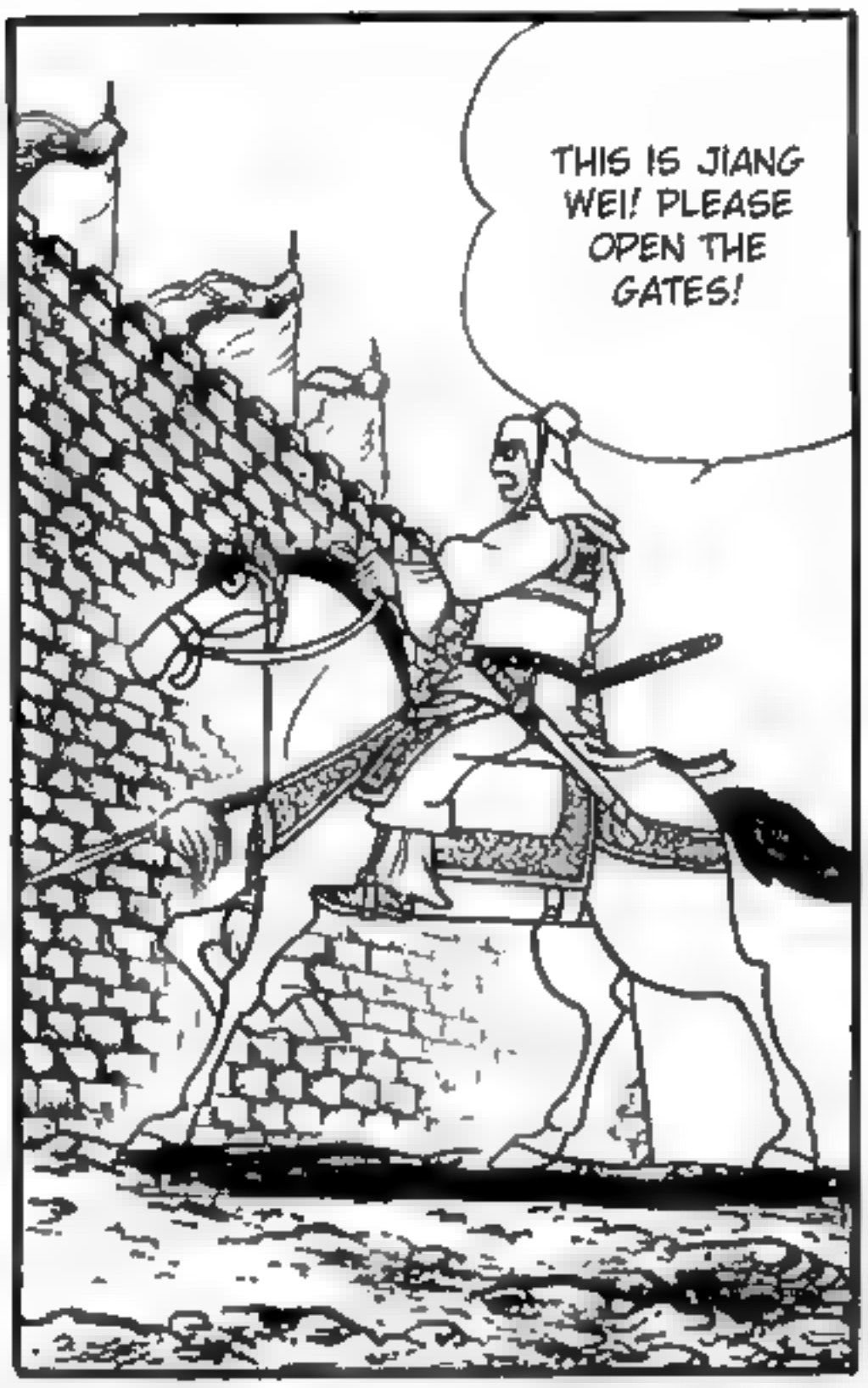


CURSES! I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO SEEK REFUGE AT SHANGGUI.

GOVERNOR MA ZUN!



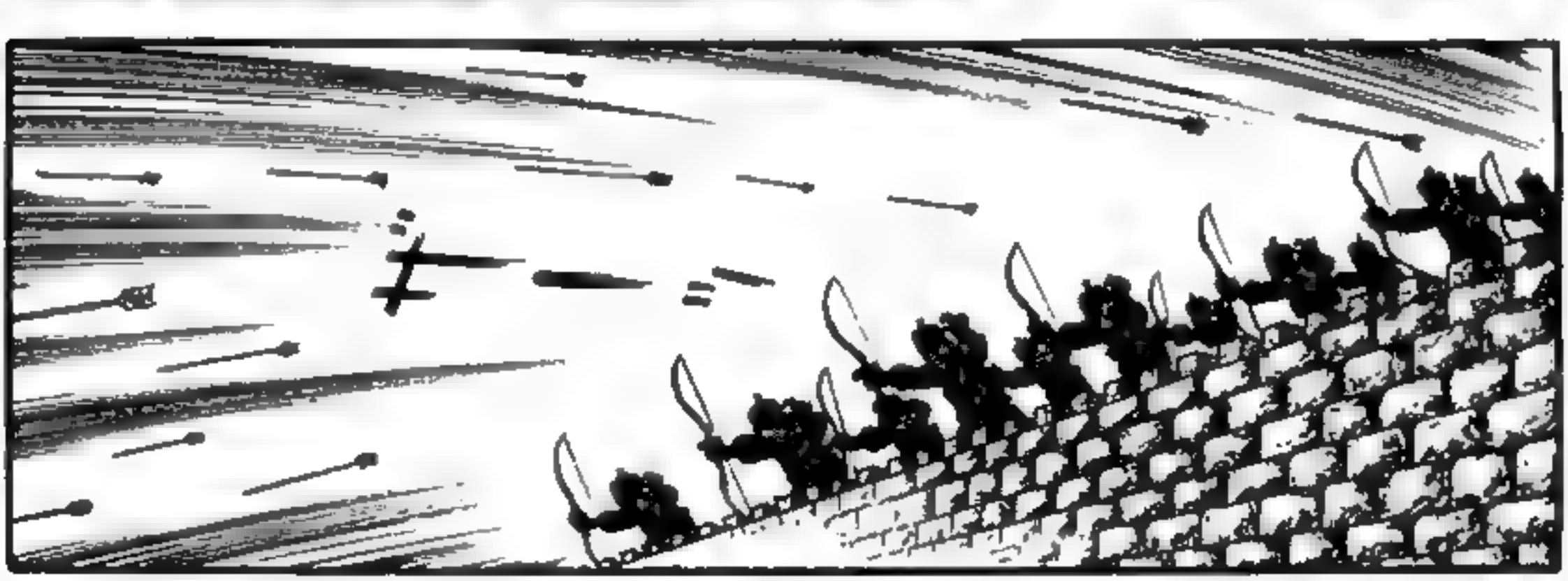

HAHAHA! SO YOU REALLY DID SHOW UP HERE!

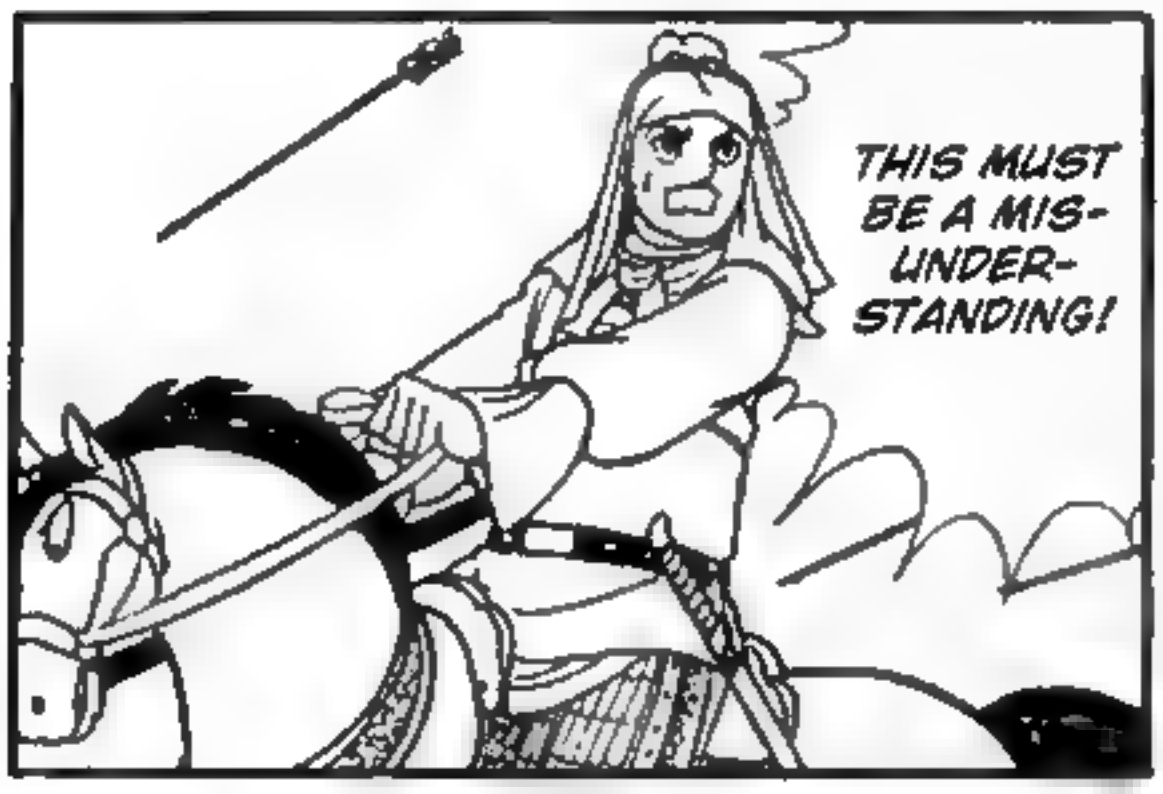

THIS IS JIANG WEI! PLEASE OPEN THE GATES!


HAVING SURRENDERED TO SHU, YOU NOW PLAN TO TAKE SHANGGUI FROM ME NOW, JIANG WEI!?


ARCHERS!


WHAT!? ME? SURRENDER TO SHU!?

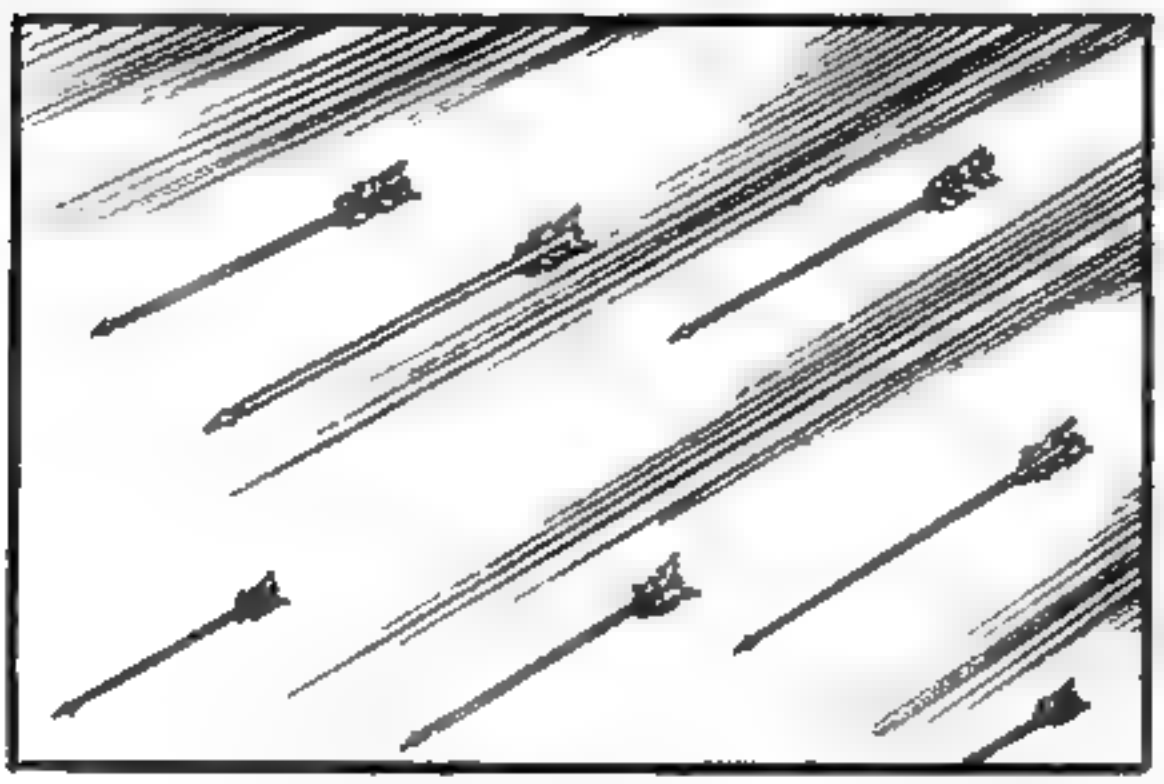



THIS MUST BE A MIS-UNDER-STANDING!

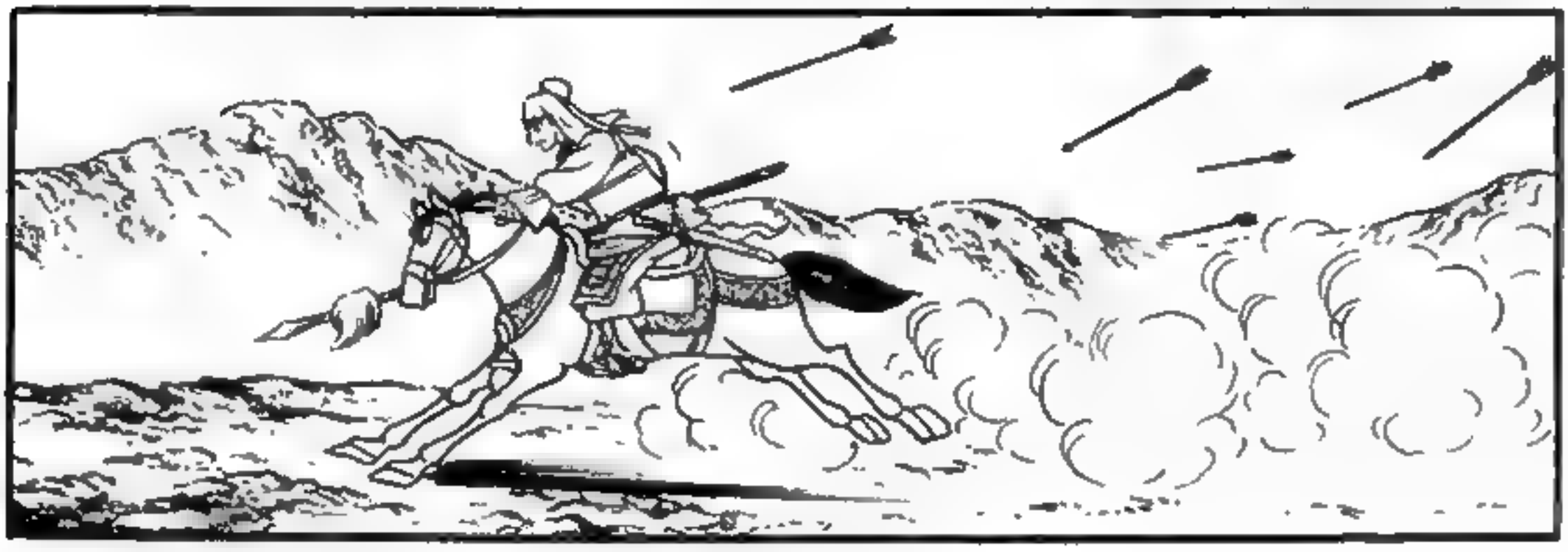

AGHH!


DON'T HOLD BACK! SHOOT TO KILL!


HA! YOU THINK I'D FALL FOR THAT!?







JIANG WEI NOW FOUND HIMSELF WITHOUT TROOPS NOR A CITY TO RETURN TO

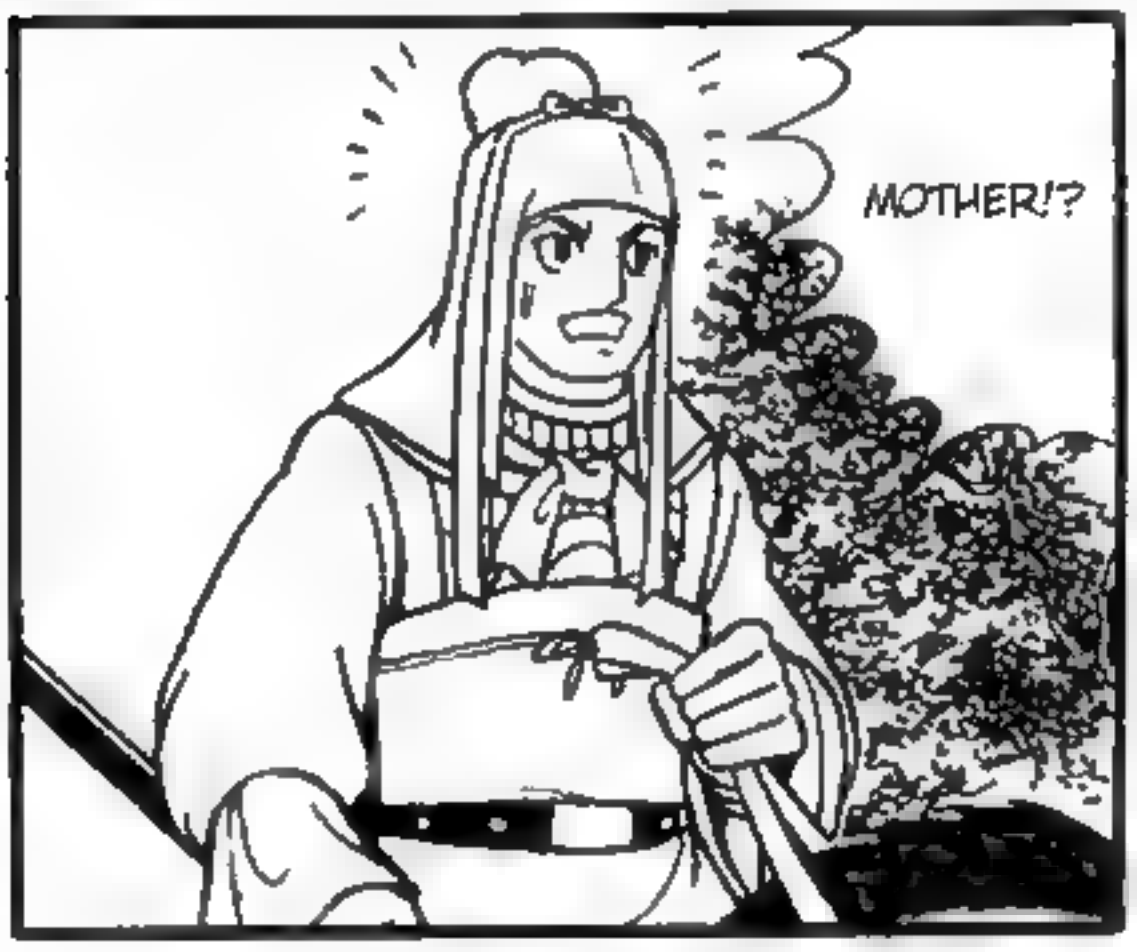
HOW IN THE WORLD DID THINGS COME TO THIS...!?

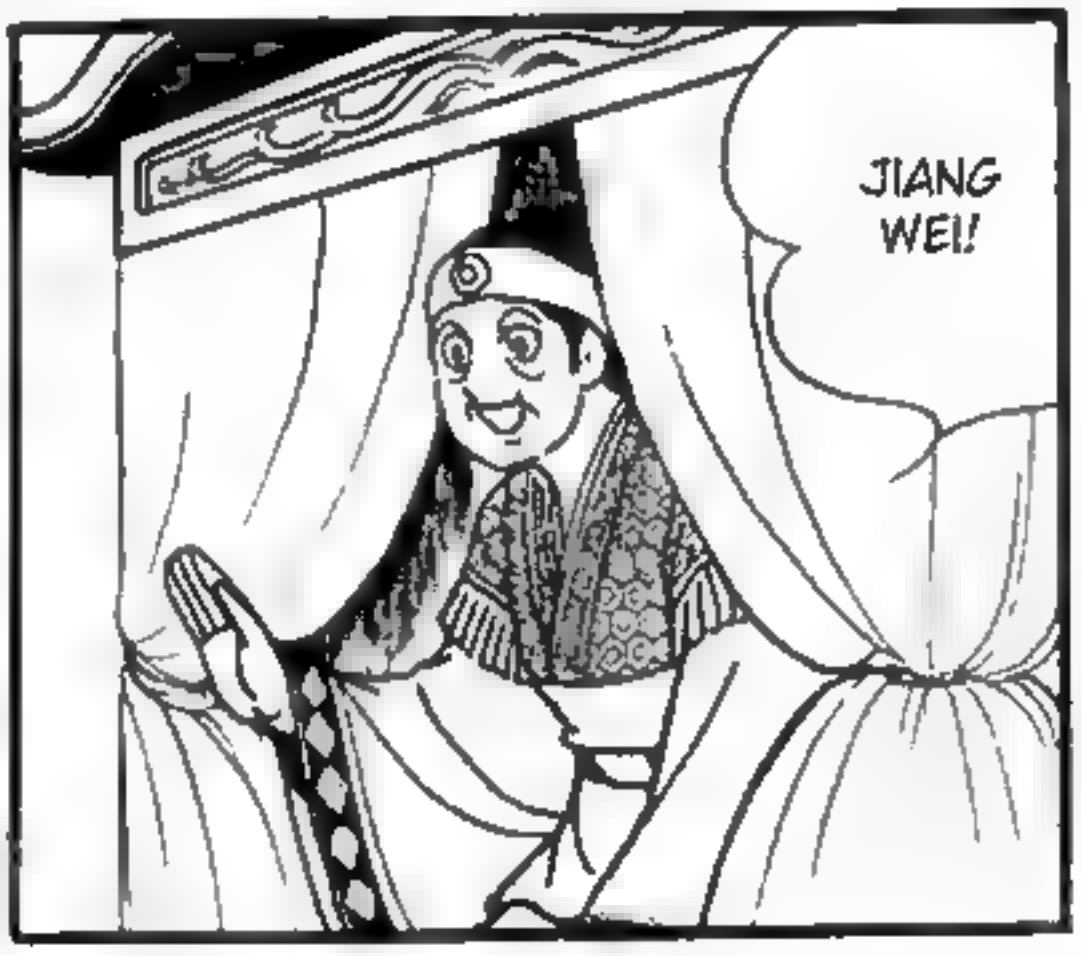
HM?

AH, IT'S THE BIRD WITHOUT A ROOST! WILL YOU NOT SURRENDER, OR WILL YOU FIGHT ALL ALONE TOWARDS A FUTILE END?

AHH!


葛孤


MOTHER!?


JIANG WEI!




HAVING RENDERED LOYAL SERVICE TO WEI FOR AS LONG AS YOUR OWN ALLIES MADE POSSIBLE, THERE IS NO SHAME IN SURRENDERING. WHY DO YOU STILL STRUGGLE SO?

I AM SURE YOUR MOTHER AS WELL WISHES TO SEE YOU HELP BENEFIT THE REALM, INSTEAD OF SEEKING AN EARLY VAINGLORIOUS DEATH.

DEATH COMES TO ALL EVENTUALLY. THUS THE TALENTED MUST NOT SEEK DEATH, BUT RATHER SEEK TO USE THEIR SKILLS FOR THE GOOD OF THE REALM WHILE STILL ALIVE.

IF THIS BE THE WILL OF HEAVEN, THEN I HUMBLY SUBMIT.

SINCE LEAVING MY HUMBLE ABODE, FOR LONG HAVE I SEARCHED A WISE AND CAPABLE MAN.

SPLENDID.

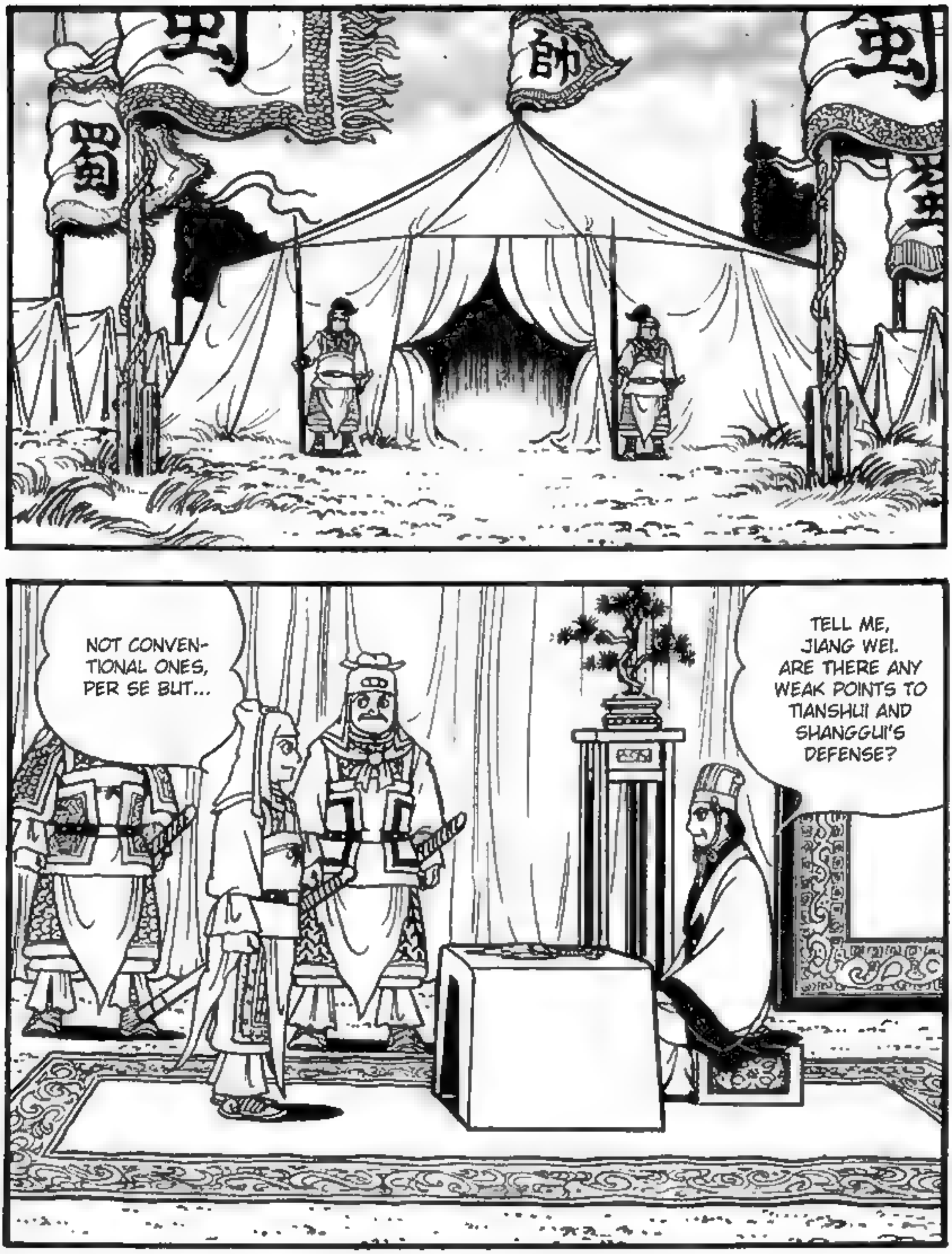

IF YOU PROMISE TO USE IT FOR THE GOOD OF THE EMPIRE, YES.


YOU WILL TEACH ME YOUR ART OF WAR...!?
A MAN WORTHY ENOUGH TO PASS ON MY YEARS OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE TO. NOW THAT I'VE MET YOU, I BELIEVE I HAVE FOUND THAT MAN. I WISH TO IMPART ALL OF MY KNOWLEDGE IF YOU ARE WILLING.


I FEEL THAT YOU OVERRATE MY HUMBLE ABILITIES,


YOUR RESPONSE LEAVES ME FULFILLED.
BUT I WILL GLADLY LEARN ALL YOU HAVE TO OFFER SO THAT I MAY PUT IT TO USE FOR THE EMPIRE.

# A SINGLE ARROW



A SINGLE ARROW?

IF YOU WOULD BE SO KIND AS TO LEND ME A SINGLE ARROW, I RECKON WE CAN CAPTURE TIANSHUI.

AH, OF COURSE. XIAHOU MAO AND MA ZUN WILL SURELY BE OVERLY SUSPICIOUS OF ANY FRIENDS OF YOURS, ESPECIALLY IF THEY REALIZE YOU TRIED TO SEND A LETTER TO THEM.

I AM CLOSE FRIENDS WITH THE OFFICERS YIN SHANG AND LIANG XU, WHO ARE BOTH STATIONED INSIDE TIANSHUI. IF I SHOOT AN ARROW WITH A MESSAGE FOR THEM OVER THE WALLS, THEY WILL BE SUSPECTED OF SECRETLY PLOTTING WITH ME AND THE GARRISON WILL EVENTUALLY FIGHT AMONGST THEMSELVES.

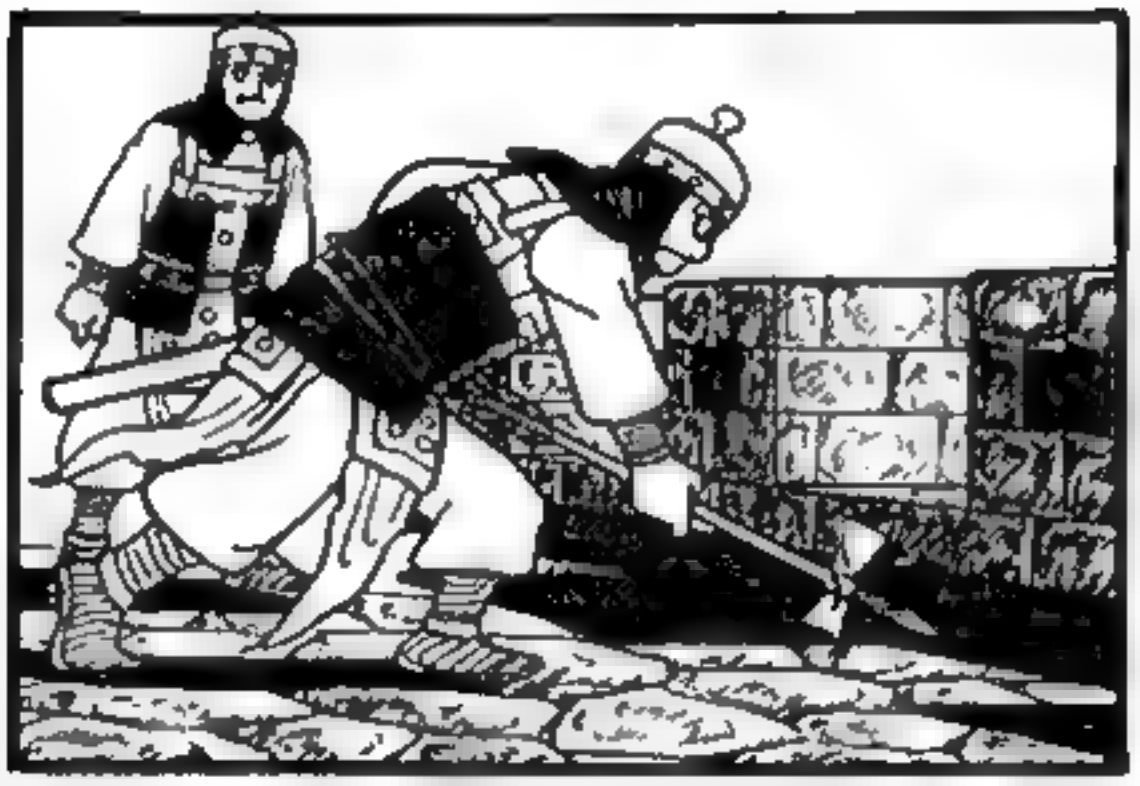
YES, SIR.

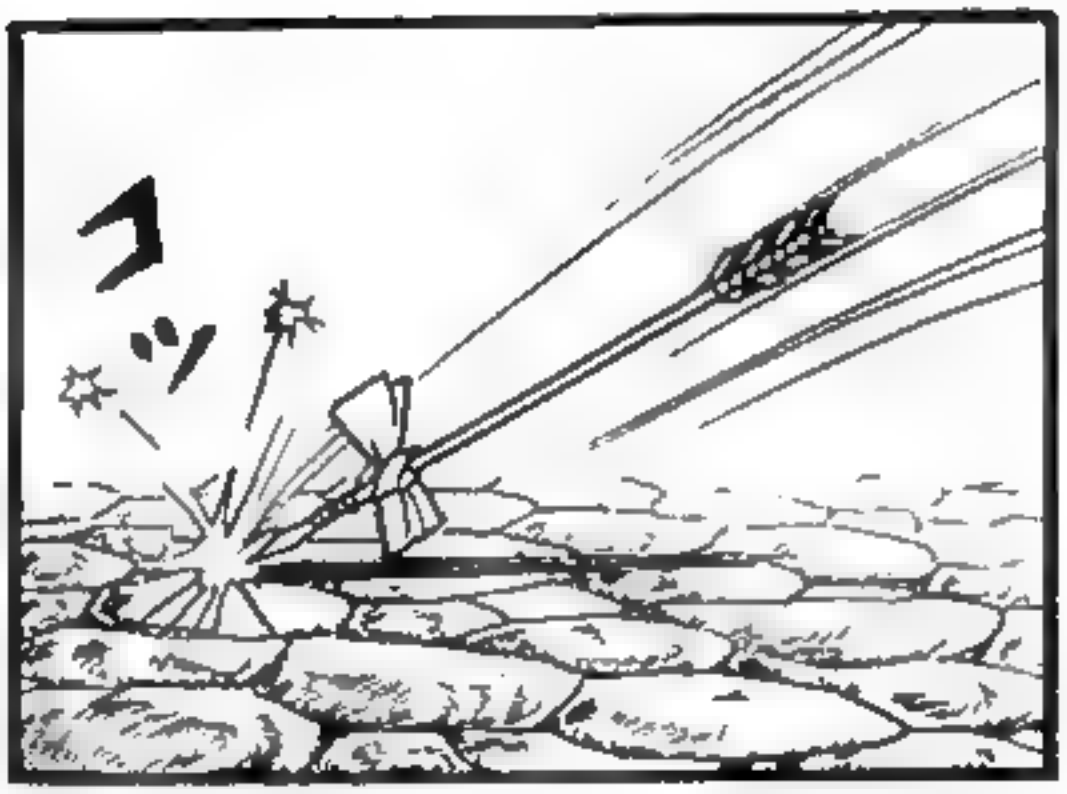
VERY WELL, YOU MAY CARRY OUT YOUR PLAN.

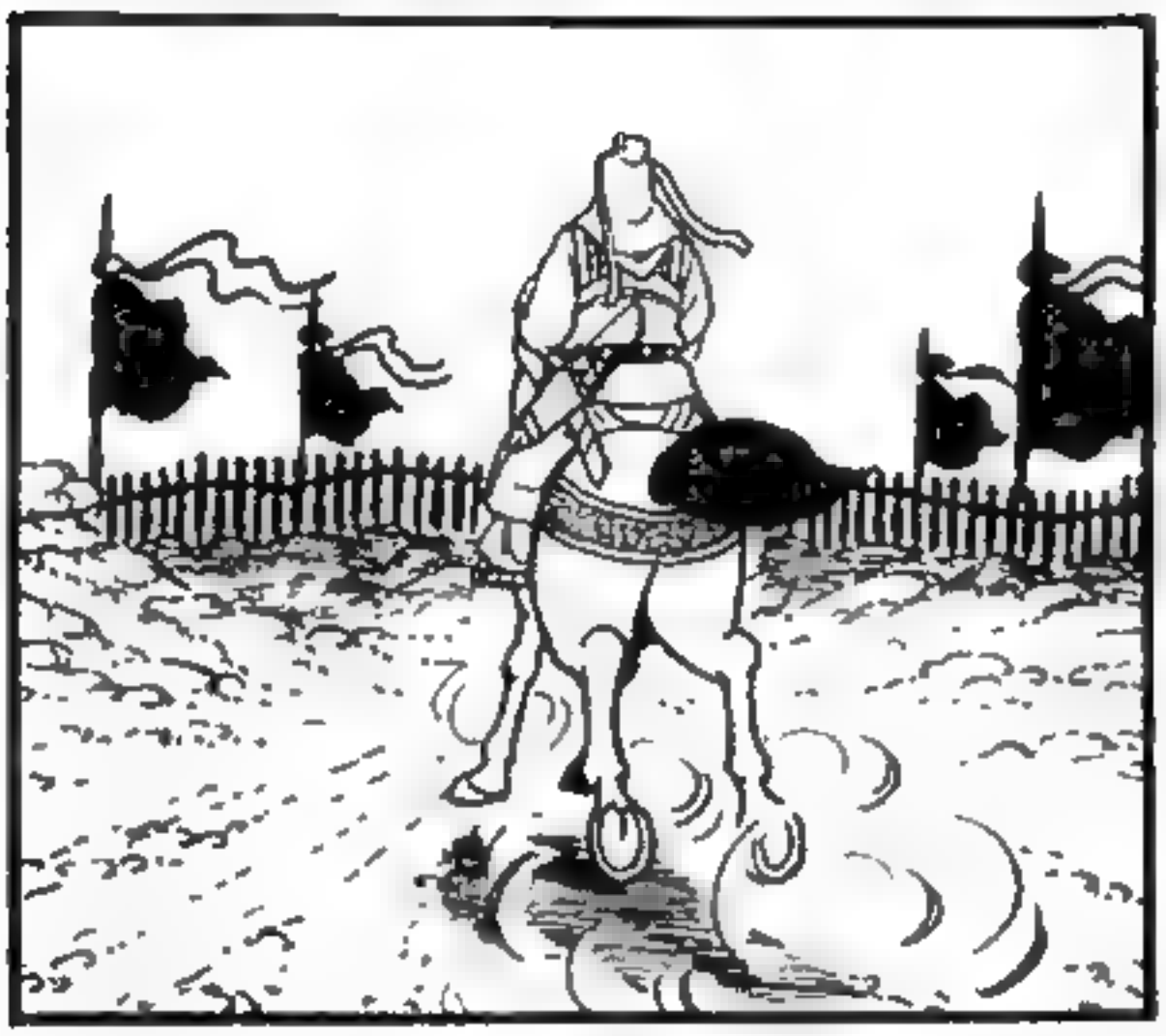
GARRISON OF TIANSHUI!

カッカッ

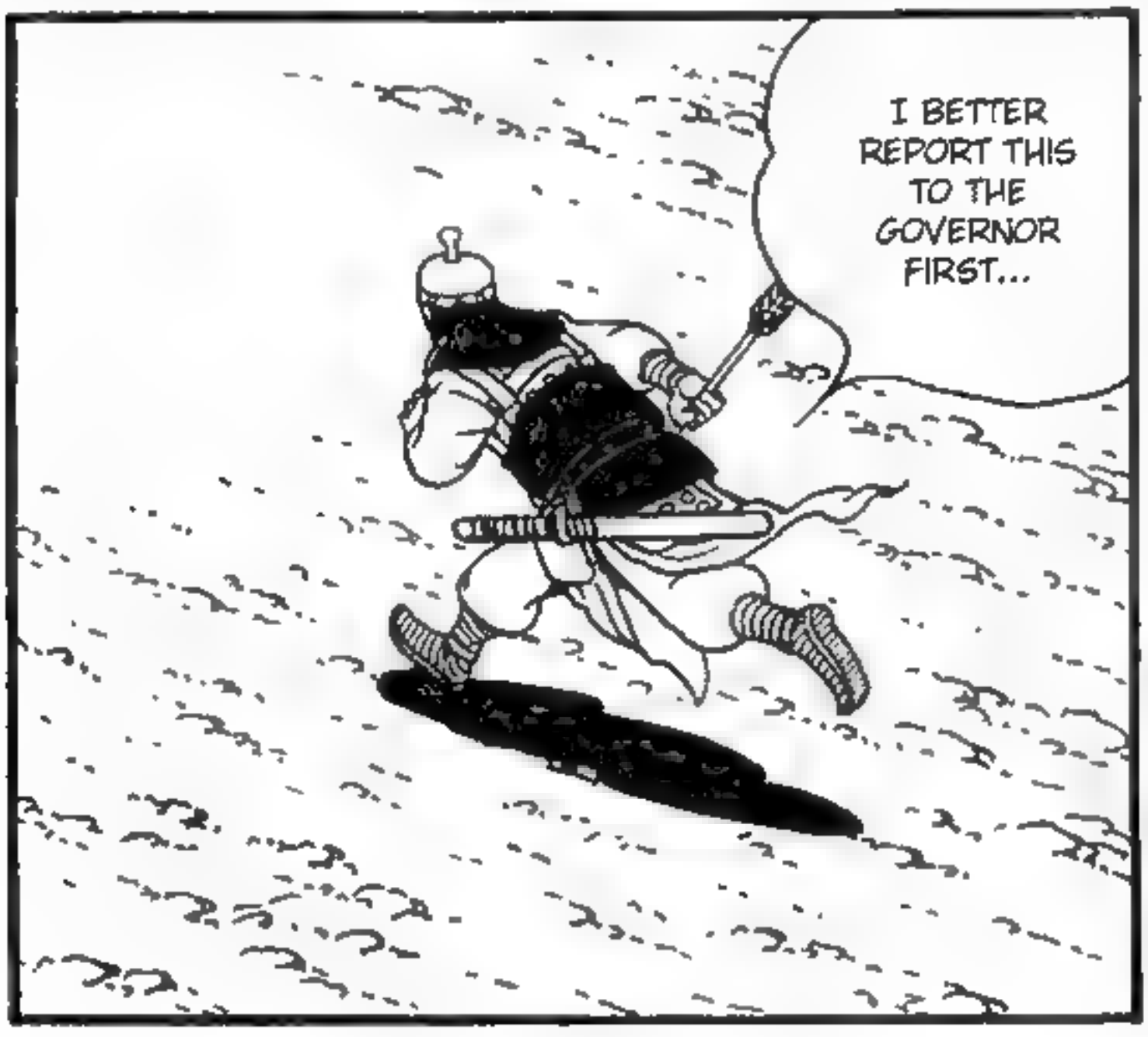
SEE TO IT THAT THIS LETTER IS DELIVERED TO OFFICERS YIN SHANG AND LIANG XU!








THAT IS ALL!


I BETTER REPORT THIS TO THE GOVERNOR FIRST...



HM...

YES, SIR.

SO HE TRIED TO SEND THIS LETTER TO YIN SHANG AND LIANG XU?

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

HMM...

JUST A FRIENDLY GREETING. NOTHING THAT SEEMS SUSPICIOUS, SIR.

YES, I THINK THERE MUST BE SOMETHING MORE TO THIS. PERHAPS THE ACT OF SENDING THE LETTER ITSELF IS A SIGNAL...?


BUT WOULD HE REALLY BOTHER TO SEND A LETTER OVER THE WALLS JUST TO MAKE FRIENDLY BANTER?


YES, A SECRET PLOT! THAT MUST BE IT!
BOTH YIN SHANG AND LIANG XU WERE VERY CLOSE FRIENDS WITH JIANG WEI. IT'S CERTAINLY WELL WITHIN THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY THAT THE THREE ARE ALREADY PLOTTING TOGETHER TO UNDERMINE TIANSHUI'S DEFENSES.


YES, I THINK SO TOO.
I'M SURE THIS LETTER CONVEYS SOME SECRET SIGNAL TO THOSE TWO.

YES, SIR. I'LL SUMMON THEM AT ONCE FOR THEIR SURPRISE EXECUTION.

EMBERS MUST BE STAMPED OUT EARLY, LEST THEY TURN INTO A GREAT FIRE. I ORDER FOR THEIR IMMEDIATE EXECUTION.

.....

BOTH COMMANDER XIAHOU MAO AND GOVERNOR MA ZUN BELIEVE YOU ARE CONSPIRING WITH JIANG WEI.

WHAT!? THE GOVERNOR IS PLANNING TO EXECUTE LIANG XU AND ME!?

YOU AND LIANG XU ARE ALREADY TRAITORS IN THEIR EYES, SIMPLY DUE TO YOUR ASSOCIATION WITH JIANG WEI.

I'M AFRAID THEY WON'T BELIEVE YOU NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY.

THIS IS ABSURD! WHAT EVIDENCE DO THEY EVEN HAVE? I MUST GO CLEAR OUR NAMES AT ONCE!


WELL, THANK YOU FOR TELLING ME. I MUST GO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH LIANG XU NOW.


TAKE CARE, YIN SHANG.


I'M CERTAIN OF IT.
IS THE SITUATION REALLY THAT BAD?


YES, SIR.
BRING ME MY HORSE.









YES, HE AND XIAHOU MAO THINK WE ARE PLOTTING WITH JIANG WEI AGAINST THEM JUST BECAUSE WE THREE WERE CLOSE FRIENDS.

*WHAT!? THE GOVERNOR PLANS TO SUMMON US FOR AN EXECUTION!?*

I FEEL JUST AS INDIGNANT AS YOU. APPARENTLY, JIANG WEI TRIED TO SEND A LETTER TO US OVER THE WALLS, AND THEY INTERPRETED IT AS CLEAR AND INCONTROVERTIBLE EVIDENCE OF OUR BETRAYAL.

THIS IS RIDICULOUS! I MEAN, IT'S TRUE JIANG WEI WAS OUR GOOD FRIEND, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE WOULD SWITCH SIDES TOO!

HMM...

I DON'T KNOW. ONLY XIAHOU MAO AND THE GOVERNOR SEEM TO HAVE READ IT.

WELL WHAT DID THE LETTER SAY?

IF YOU ASK ME, I THINK THEY'VE FALLEN FOR JIANG WEI'S TRICK.

BUT THE COMMANDER AND OUR GOVERNOR HAVE ALREADY TAKEN THE BAIT...

YES, I ALSO SUSPECT THIS IS JIANG WEI'S RUSE TO FOMENT INTERNAL CONFLICT WITHIN TIANSHUI.

FORGET ABOUT TIANSHUI! IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING, IT'LL BE OUR HEADS POSTED ON A PIKE BY TOMORROW! I REFUSE TO DIE IN SUCH A PITIFUL WAY!

YIN SHANG, IF THOSE TWO ARE ALREADY WILLING TO DOUBT THEIR OWN OFFICERS, THEN I FEAR THIS CITY WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD OFF THE ENEMIES FOR LONG.

HM...

IF THEY'VE ALREADY DECIDED TO EXECUTE US, WHY DON'T WE JUST OPEN THE GATES FOR SHU AND SURRENDER INSTEAD?

THAT IS A GOOD POINT...

I'D SAY IT BEATS GETTING EXECUTED FOR NO REASON.

FIRST, WE OPEN THE GATES FOR THE SHU TROOPS.

RIGHT, IT'S BETTER TO STRIKE FIRST.

FINE, LET'S DO IT.

ALRIGHT, I'LL GET THE NECESSARY TROOPS LOYAL TO US.

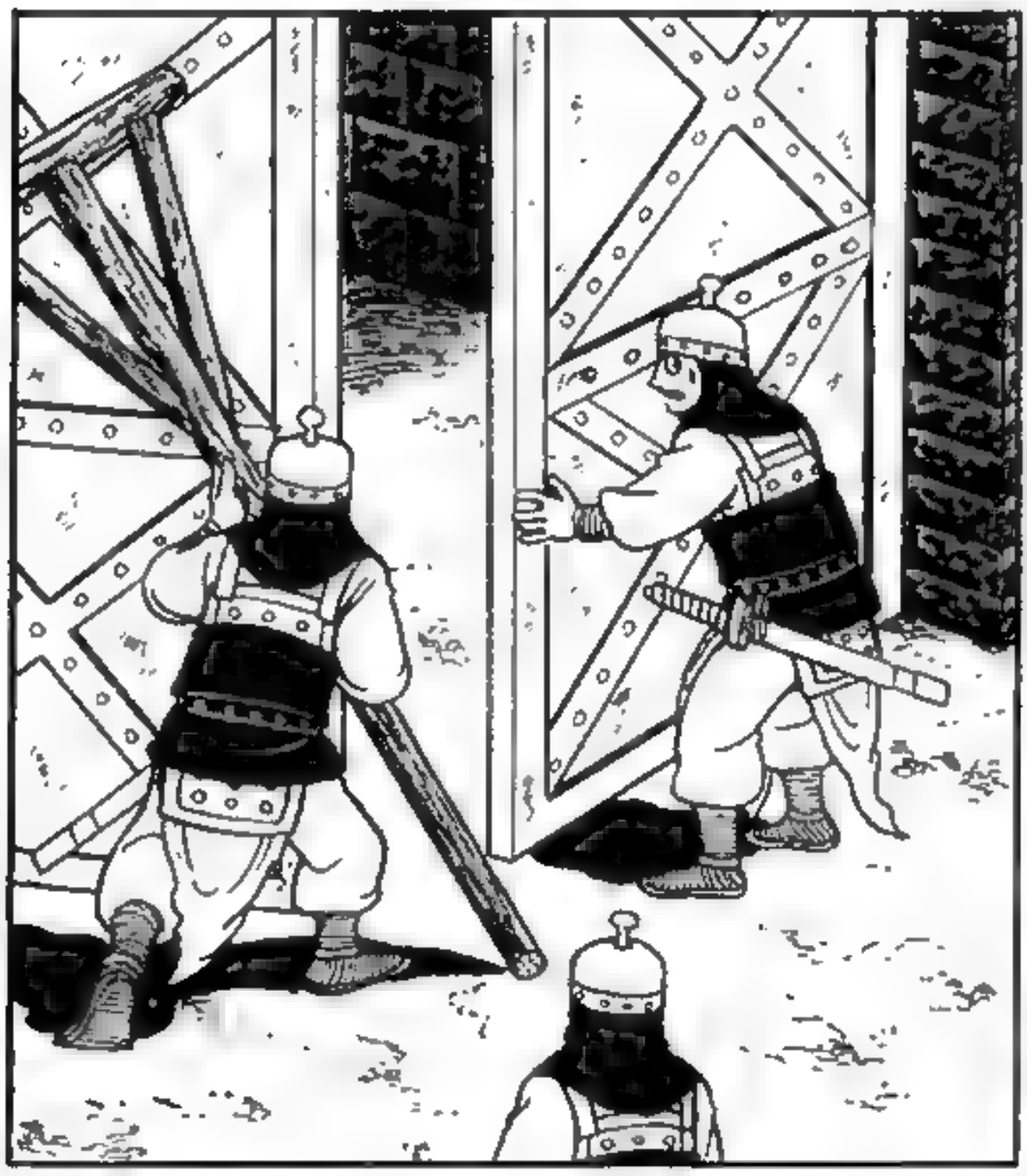
AND THEN WE TAKE XIAHOU MAO AND MA ZUN AS OUR CAPTIVES...!


尹賞
梁統


OPEN THE GATES!
GOOD DAY, SIRS.

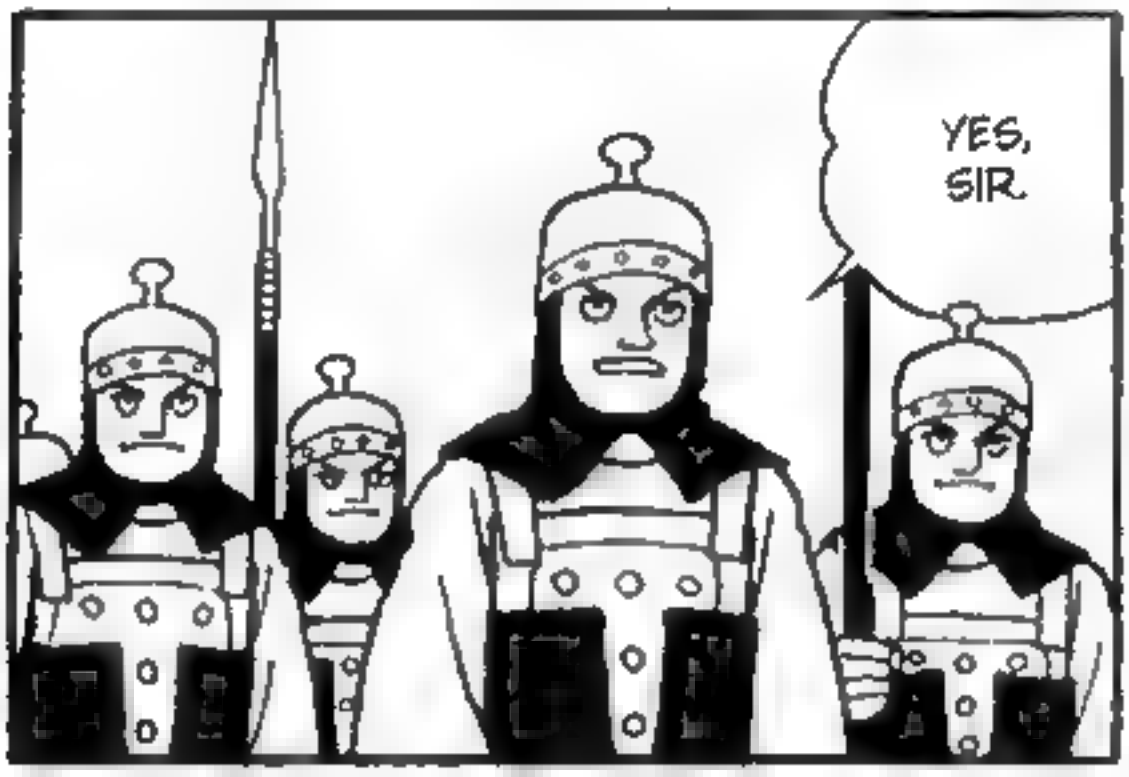

I SAID OPEN THE GATES! THAT'S AN ORDER!


P-PARDON ME?






Y-YES, SIR...

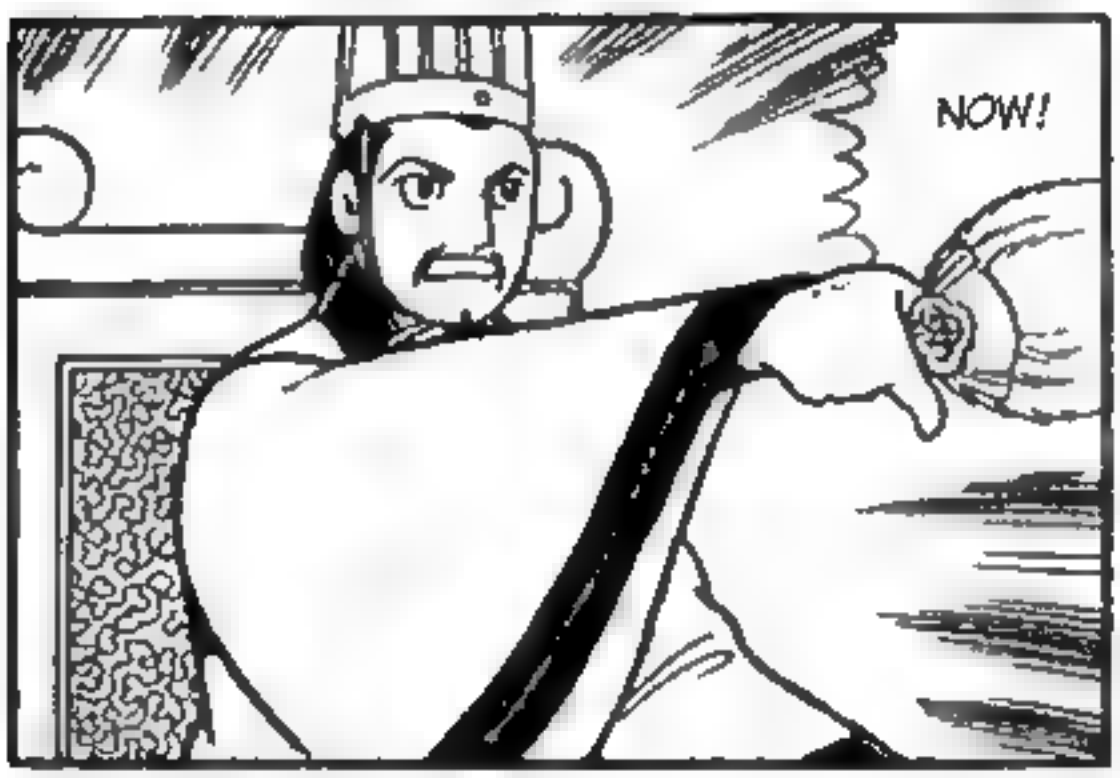

YES, SIR.


WAVE OUR FLAGS TOWARDS THE SHU TROOPS. JIANG WEI SHOULD ALREADY BE ANTICIPATING FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS TO HAPPEN.

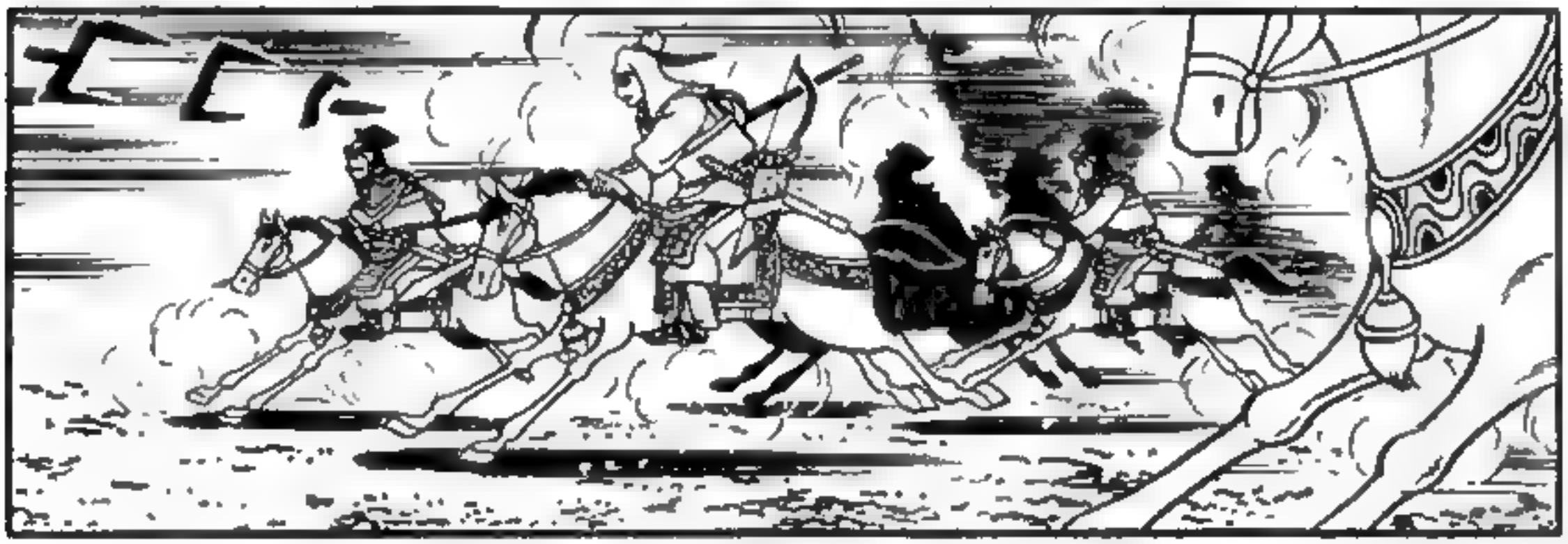







NOW!


YES.
LOOKS LIKE YOUR PLAN WORKED.




NOW LET'S GO TAKE XIAHOU MAO AND MA ZUN AS OUR CAPTIVES!


SHU TROOPS ARE HEADING FORWAD!


SO THIS REALLY WAS JIANG WEI'S PLAN ALL ALONG...



NOT YET, SIR.

WHAT'S THE MATTER? HAS YIN SHANG AND LIANG XU STILL NOT REPORTED IN YET?

YES, SIR.

FINE, THEN WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FORCE THE MATTER OURSELVES. USE THE TROOPS TO ARREST THEM!

WHAT IS IT?

IT'S AN EMERGENCY!

GOVERNOR!

WHAT!?

YIN SHANG AND LIANG XU HAVE STARTED A REBEL-LION! THEY'VE ALREADY OPENED THE GATES FOR THE ENEMIES AND ARE NOW HEADING INSIDE HERE TO TAKE YOU CAPTIVE!

AH!

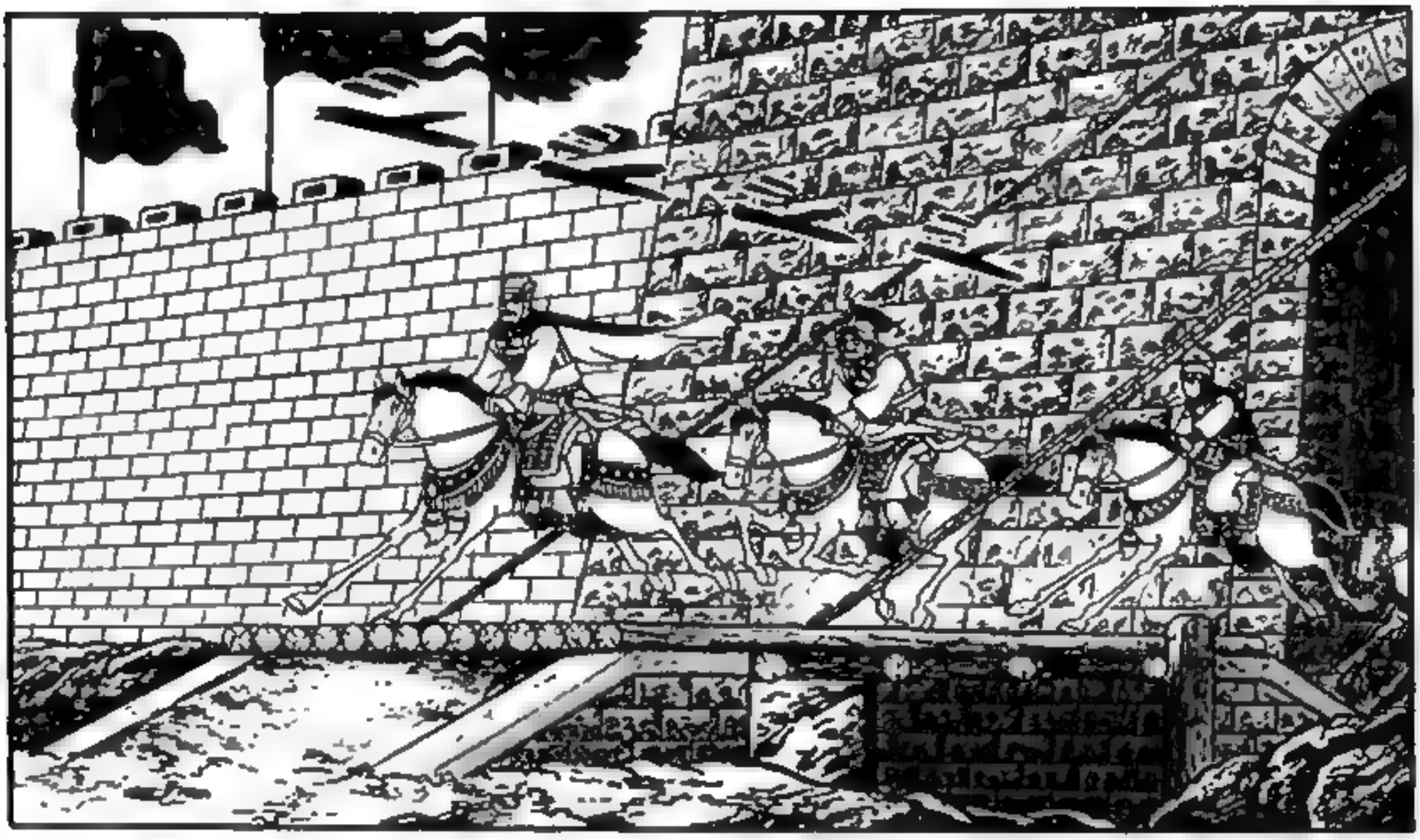
IF IT WERE JUST YIN SHANG AND LIANG XU'S FORCE, WE MIGHT STAND A CHANCE, BUT WITH SHU TROOPS FLOODING INSIDE, WE CANNOT STAND AND FIGHT!

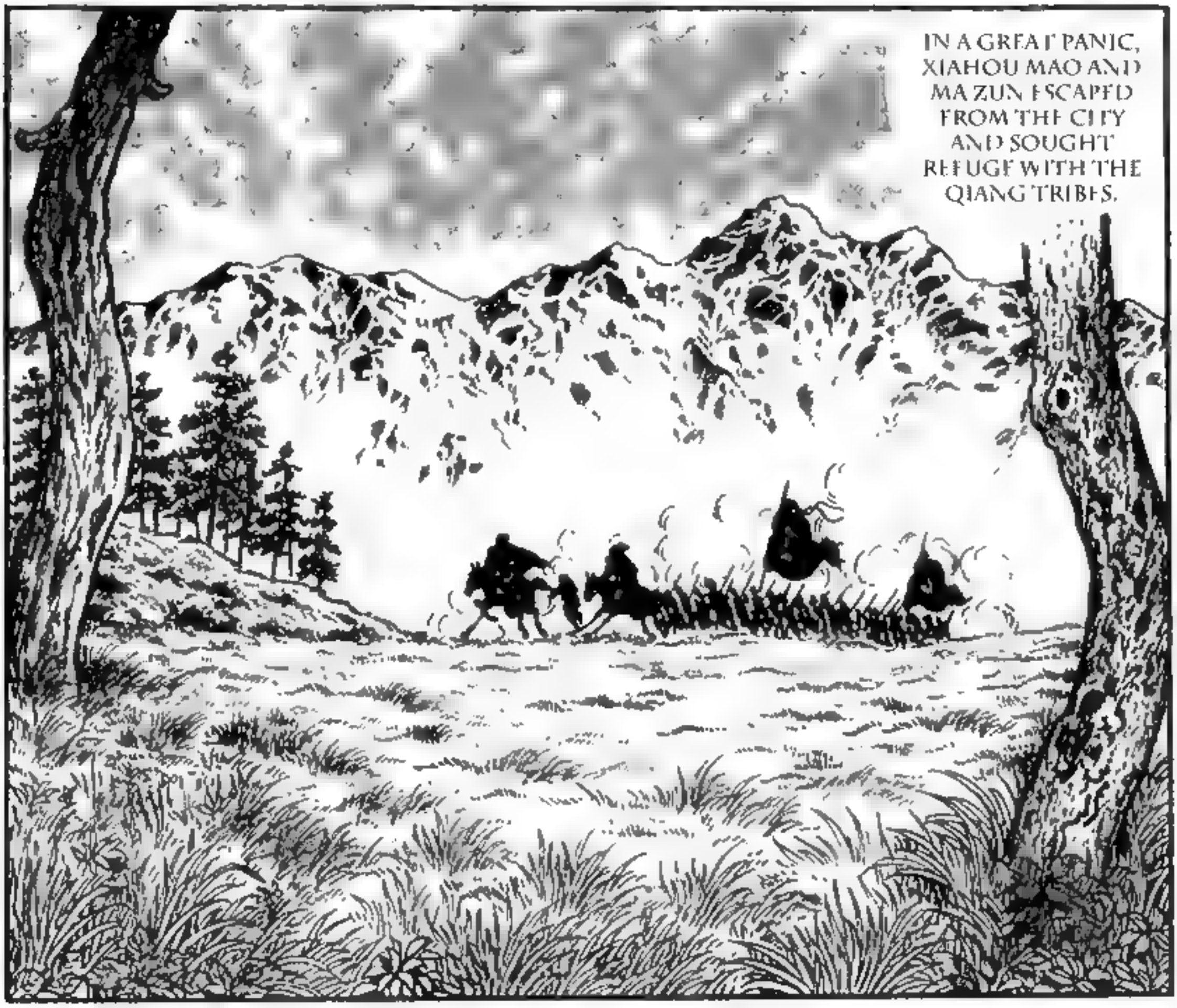
W-WHAT DO WE DO!?

R-RIGHT!

WE MUST QUICKLY FLEE THE CITY THROUGH THE WESTERN GATES!

THIS WAY, SIR!




IN A GREAT PANIC, XIAHOU MAO AND MA ZUN ESCAPED FROM THE CITY AND SOUGHT REFUGE WITH THE QIANG TRIBES.

SHU FLAGS STOOD ATOP TIANSHUI'S WALLS AT LAST.

PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE, SIR.

SO YOU TWO ARE YIN SHANG AND LIANG XU. THANK YOU FOR OPENING THE GATES FOR MY TROOPS.

GO ON.

YES, ACTU-ALLY.

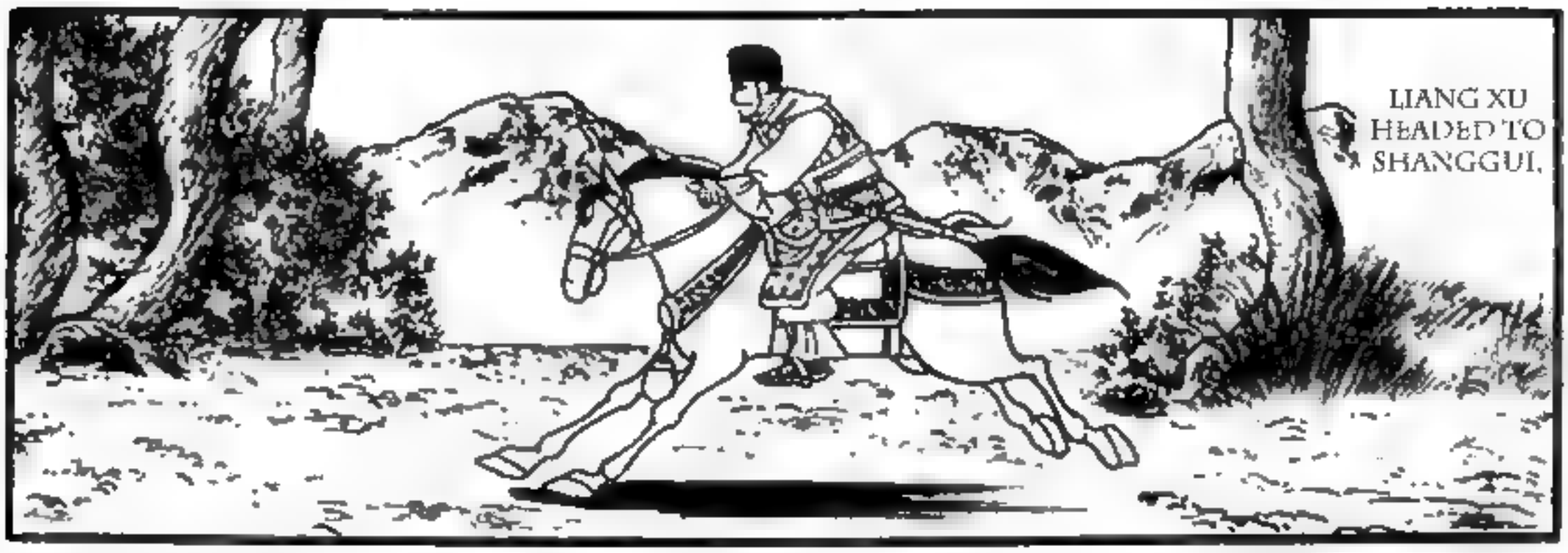
OUR NEXT GOAL IS SHANGGUI. HAVE YOU ANY IDEAS ON HOW TO TAKE IT?

OH? HE'S YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER?

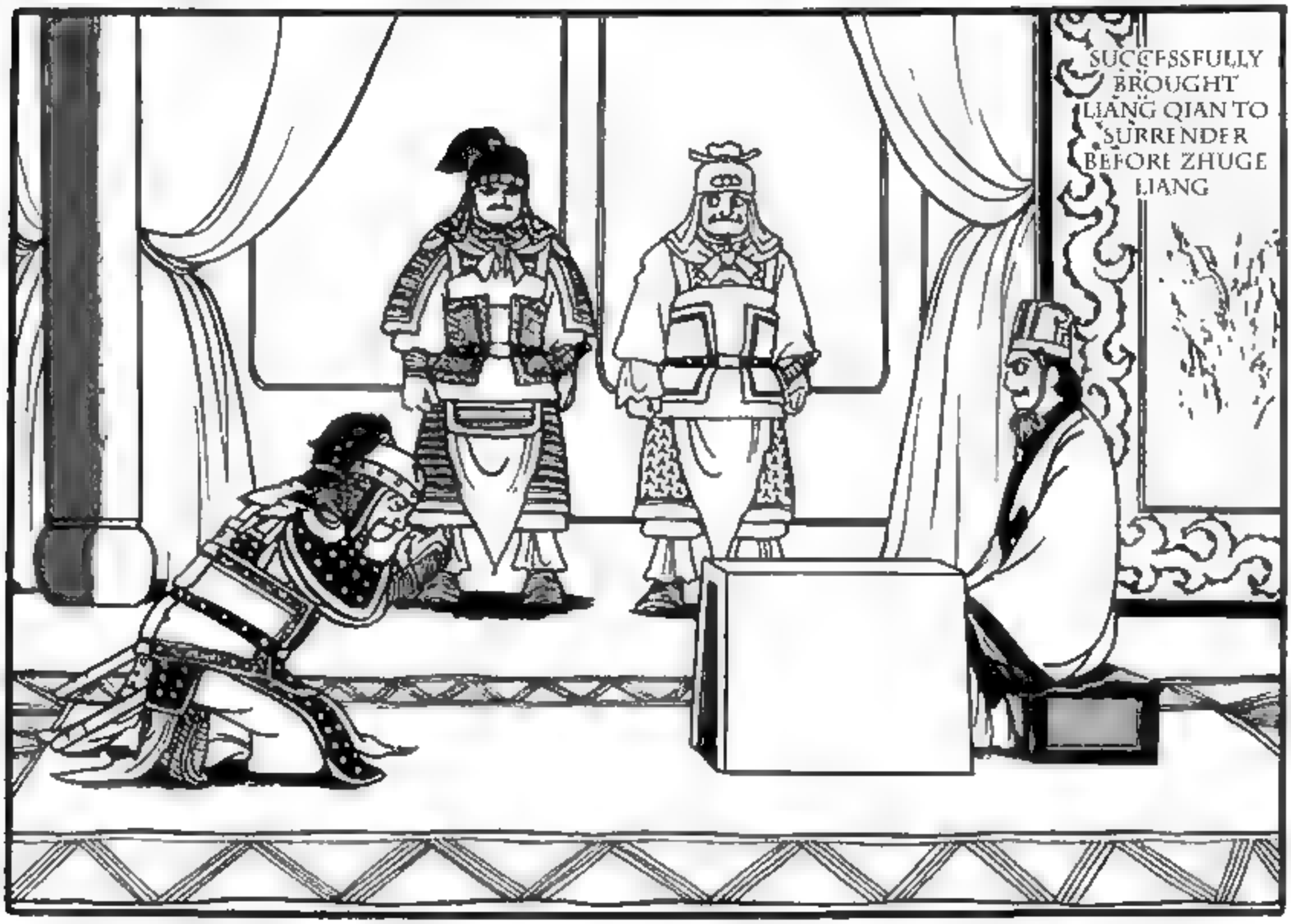
THE MAN HEADING SHANGGUI'S DEFENSE IS NONE OTHER THAN MY YOUNGER BROTHER, LIANG QIAN. I BELIEVE I CAN PERSUADE HIM TO SURRENDER WITHOUT FURTHER BLOODSHED.

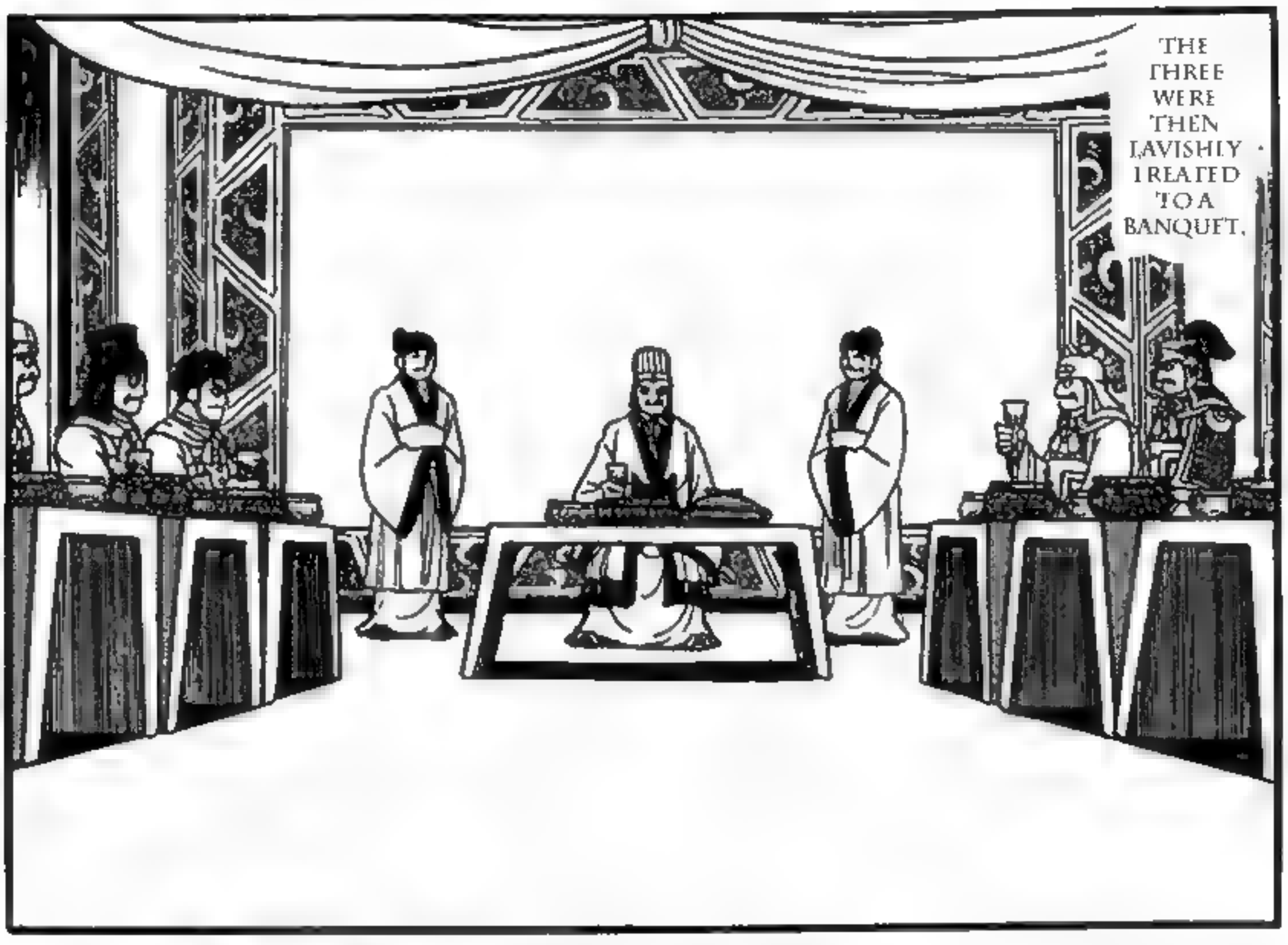
THANK YOU, SIR.

THEN I SHALL LEAVE THE MATTER TO YOU.


LIANG XU HEADED TO SHANGGUI.

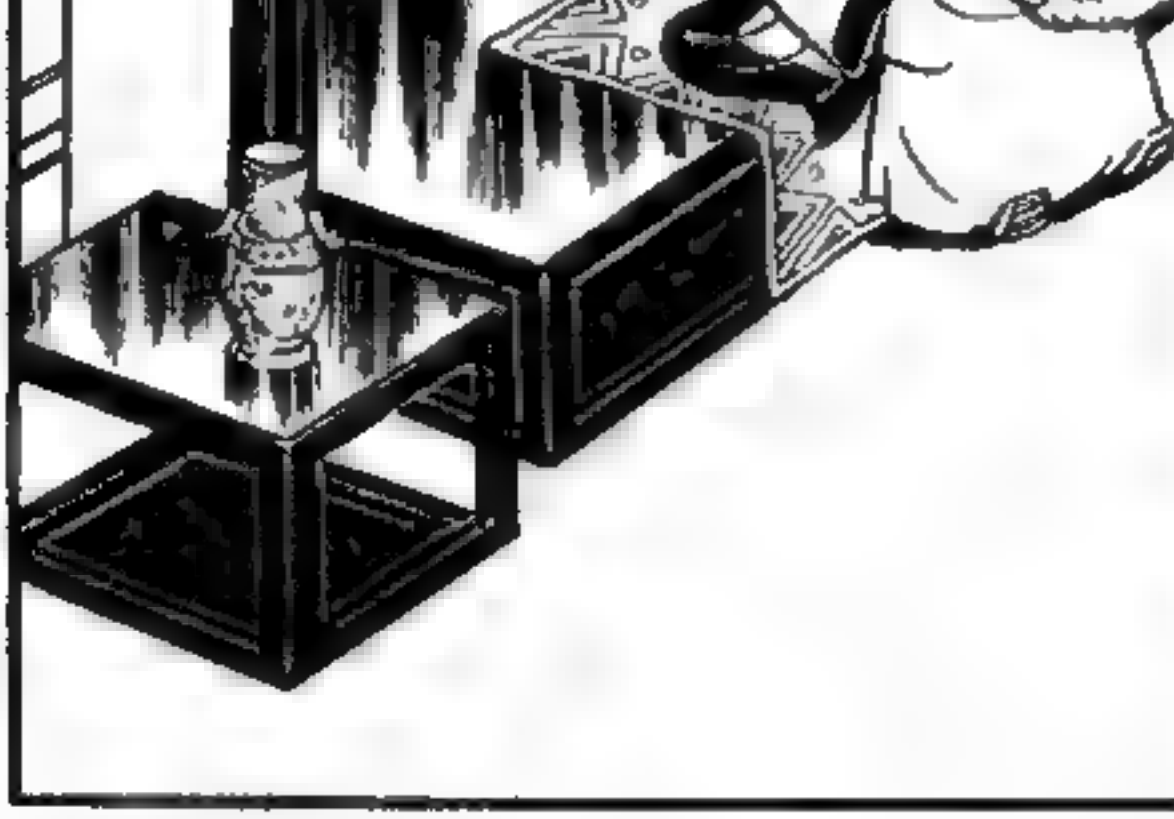

AND AFTER SOME DISCUSSION,


SUCCESSFULLY BROUGHT LIANG QIAN TO SURRENDER BEFORE ZHUGE LIANG


THE THREE WERE THEN LAVISHLY TREATED TO A BANQUET.


AND REWARDED WITH NEW POSTS LIANG XU TO GOVERNOR OF TIANSHUI YIN SHANG TO MAGISTRATE OF JICHENG, AND LIANG QIAN TO MAGISTRATE OF SHANGGUI


XIAHOU MAO IS A SINGLE DUCK I LET FREE. IT MATTERS LITTLE IN THE LONG RUN.
CHANCELLOR, WHY HAVE WE NOT GONE AFTER XIAHOU MAO?

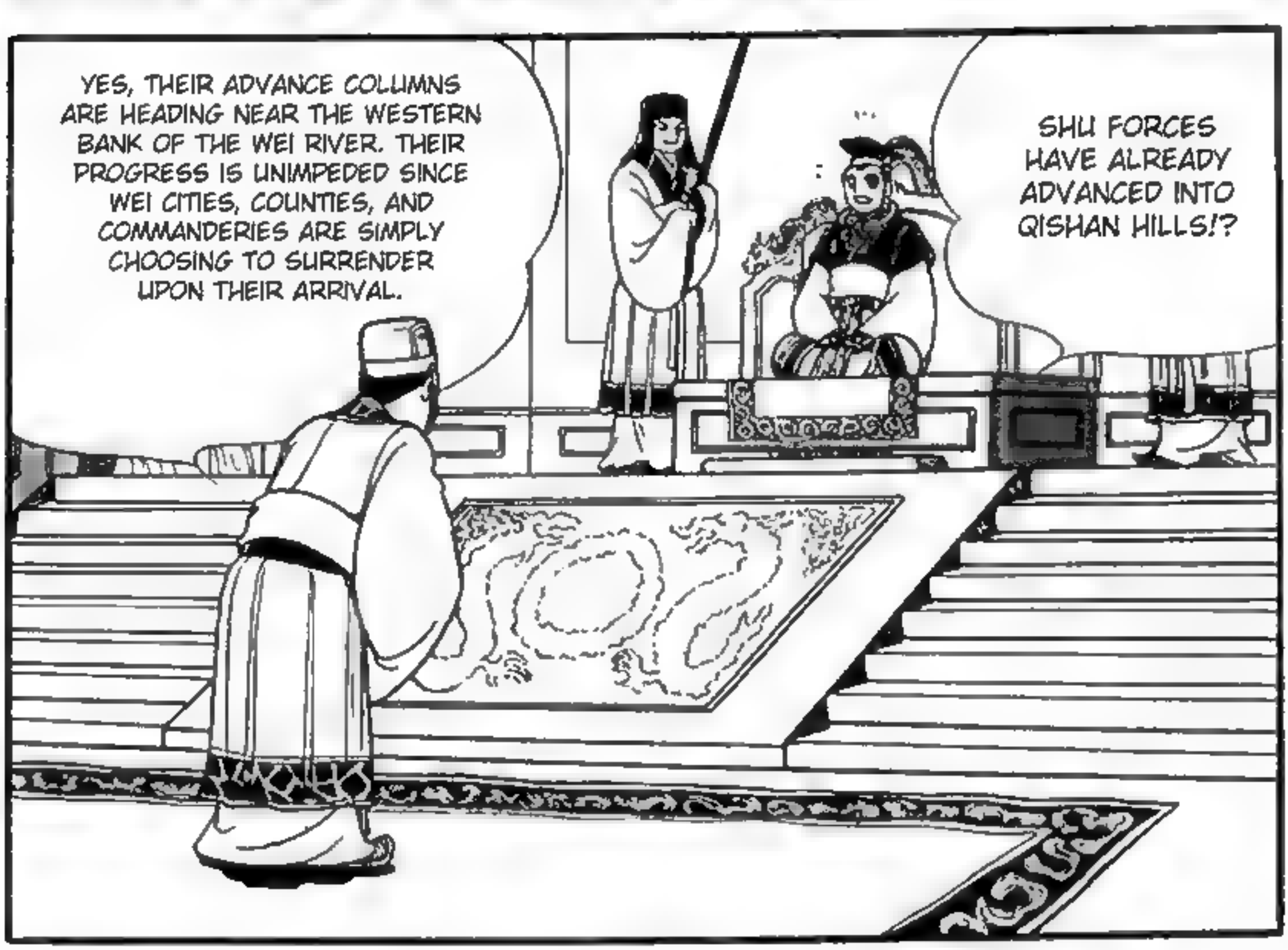

AS THE OLD PROVERB GOES, "TO RECRUIT A THOUSAND SOLDIERS IS EASY, BUT TO RECRUIT A SINGLE GREAT GENERAL IS DIFFICULT."


ON THE OTHER HAND, I HAVE OBTAINED A PHOENIX BY THE NAME OF JIANG WEI, WHO POSSESS BOTH MARTIAL SKILL AND A CUNNING MIND OF AN EXTRAORDINARY CALIBRE.


YES, SIR.
WITH ALL OF TIANSHUI COMMANDERY NOW PACIFIED, IT IS TIME TO HEAD FURTHER WEST FOR THE WEI CAPITAL.
WITH THE THREE COMMANDERIES OF TIANSHUI, NANAN, AND ANDING NOW IN SHU CONTROL, KONGMING'S FAME SPREAD EVER HIGHER AND WIDER THROUGHOUT THE REALM, STRIKING EITHER FEAR OR RESPECT

# BATTLE AT QISHAN HILLS





YES, THEIR ADVANCE COLUMNS ARE HEADING NEAR THE WESTERN BANK OF THE WEI RIVER. THEIR PROGRESS IS UNIMPEDED SINCE WEI CITIES, COUNTIES, AND COMMANDERIES ARE SIMPLY CHOOSING TO SURRENDER UPON THEIR ARRIVAL.
SHU FORCES HAVE ALREADY ADVANCED INTO QISHAN HILLS!?

T-THIS IS TERRIBLE!

IF NOTHING IS DONE TO REPULSE THEM, I FEAR THEY WILL BE BEFORE THE CAPITAL'S GATES VERY SOON.

IS THERE ANYONE CAPABLE OF REPELLING THIS GREAT INVASION?

THERE IS NO ONE OTHER THAN CAO ZHEN FOR THAT ROLE, YOUR MAJESTY. HE HAS NEVER FAILED TO BRING VICTORY WHENEVER THE LATE EMPEROR SENT HIM OUT. I URGE YOUR MAJESTY TO APPOINT HIM AS THE NEW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

YES?

CAO ZHEN!

AH, OF COURSE!

I AM AFRAID WANG LANG HAS OVERRATED MY MEAGER ABILITIES. SURELY THERE MUST BE ANOTHER MAN MORE CAPABLE FOR THIS CRUCIAL POST.

I ASK YOU TO LEAD 200,000 TROOPS TO REPEL THE SHU ARMIES.

.....

.....

GENERAL! WHEN THE FORMER EMPEROR WAS ON HIS SICKBED, DID HE NOT ASK YOU TO HELP HIS SUCCESSOR OVERCOME FUTURE TROUBLES? ISN'T OUR CURRENT PREDICAMENT PRECISELY THE KIND OF TROUBLE HE REFERRED TO?

I SEE I HAVE NO ROOM TO REFUSE. VERY WELL, I SHALL WRING OUT ALL MY CUNNING TO BATTLE KONGMING.

THE FATE OF WEI IS IN JEOPARDY! THE FAILURE OF XIAHOU MAO HAS MADE EVIDENT THAT ONLY AN EXPERIENCED COMMANDER CAN HOPE TO BE THE SAVIOUR OF WEI. WHO ELSE CAN IT BE BUT YOU?

THANK YOU, CAO ZHEN.

THANK YOU, YOUR MAJESTY.

I WILL PRAY FOR YOUR SUCCESS AT QISHAN HILLS.

*BANNER READS COMMANDER IN CHIEF CAO ZHEN

200,000 ELITE TROOPS
FROM THE WEI CAPITAL
NOW MARCHED
TOWARDS QISHAN HILLS
UNDER THE COMMAND
OF CAO ZHEN

IT WAS THE 11TH MONTH
IN THE FIRST YEAR OF
TAIHE ERA (EARLY 228 AD)




*TAIHE (太和 LITERALLY MEANING "GREAT PEACE") IT WAS THE NEW REIGN ERA FOR WEI MADE TO CELEBRATE CAO RUI'S SUCCESSION TO THE WEI THRONE


BEFORE
LONG,
THE TWO
FORCES FOUND
THEMSELVES
FACING EACH
OTHER AT
QISHAN HILLS

BUT JUST BECAUSE HIS CAMPS ARE WELL LAID OUT TO PROPER PRINCIPLES OF WAR DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN AFFORD TO WASTE TIME IN A STARING MATCH. WE WILL ATTEMPT A NIGHT RAID.

AS EXPECTED OF AN EXPERIENCED COMMANDER. JUST LOOKING AT THE ARRAYAL OF HIS CAMPS IS ENOUGH TO TELL YOU CAO ZHEN AND XIAHOU MAO ARE LIKE HEAVEN AND MUD.

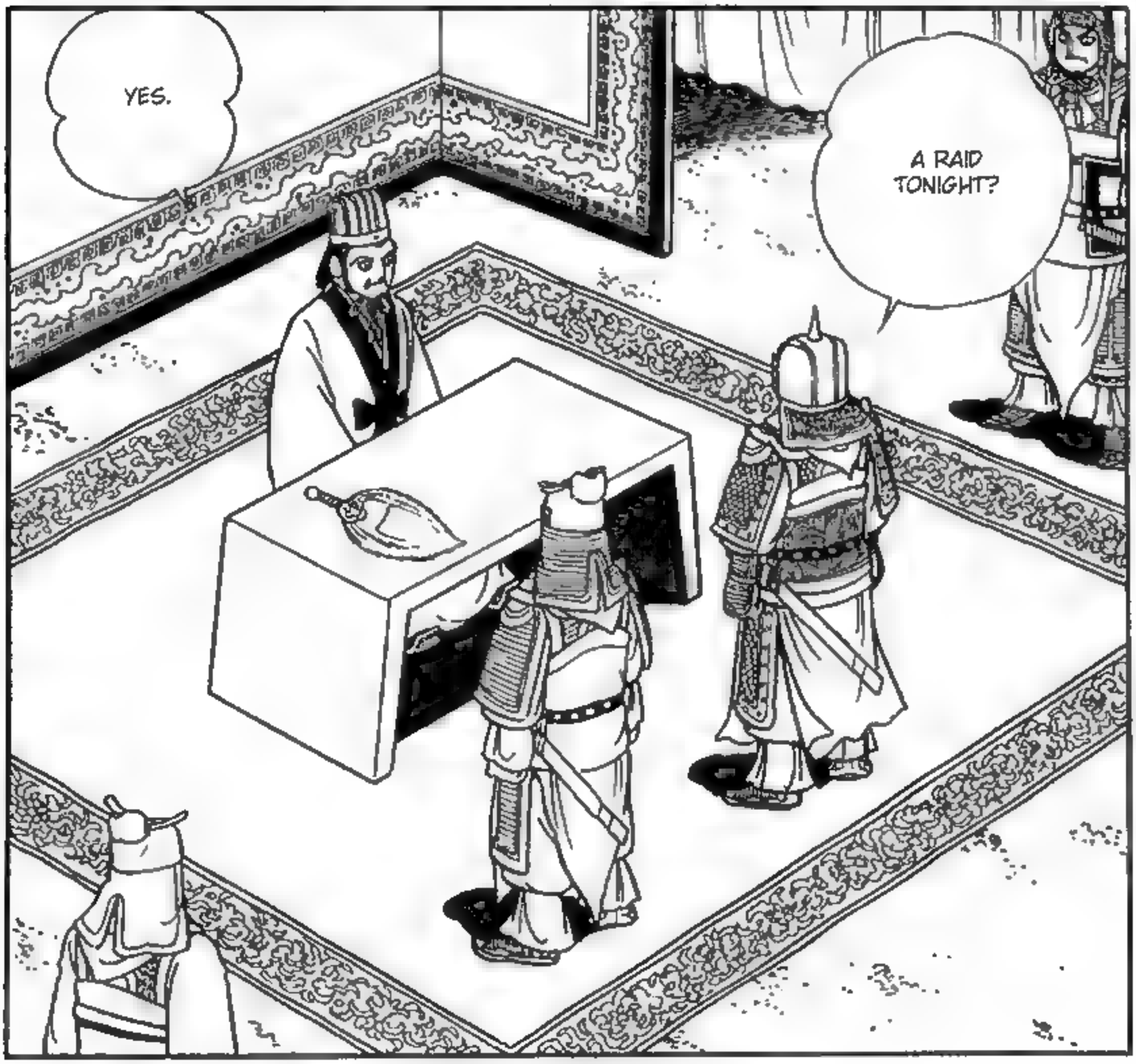
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YES, THEY VERY WELL SHOULD BE.

A RAID ON THEIR CAMPS?

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, I THINK THE ENEMIES WILL BE PREPARED FOR ANY SUCH ATTACK.


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YES.
A RAID TONIGHT?

EXACTLY, AND A SIMPLE RAID WOULD FAIL UTTERLY.

SURELY A MAN LIKE CAO ZHEN WOULD HAVE HIS TROOPS PREPARED FOR A NIGHT RAID. THIS IS TOO DANGEROUS, CHANCE...OR.

?

OUR "RAID" WILL BE SIMPLY A FEINT TO LURE THE ENEMIES OUT.

NO. LATER WHEN THE ENEMIES COME RETREATING YOUR WAY, I WANT YOU TO LET THEM PASS BEFORE GIVING CHASE.

BE SPOTTED? DO YOU WISH FOR US TO AMBUSH THE ENEMIES THERE...?

I WANT YOU TWO GENERALS TO DEPLOY YOUR TROOPS A LITTLE BEHIND THE REAR HILL PATH. YOU SHOULD IDEALLY BE SPOTTED BY THE ENEMIES WHILE ON THE MARCH.

BECAUSE YOUR GOAL IS TO DRIVE THE ENEMIES ALL THE WAY BACK TO THEIR CAMPS.

BUT WHY GO TO SUCH LENGTHS, SIR? IS IT NOT FASTER TO SIMPLY KILL THE ENEMIES WHEN WE SURPRISE THEM WITH AN AMBUSH?

YES, SIR.

WAIT FOR THE FIRE SIGNAL FROM OUR CAMPS BEFORE YOU ENTER THEIR CAMPS, HOWEVER.

AS FOR MA DAI, WANG PING, ZHANG NI, AND ZHANG YI, YOU FOUR WILL HIDE YOURSELVES OUTSIDE OUR CAMP AND AMBUSH ANY ENEMIES WHO COME TO RAID OUR CAMPS.

YES, SIR.

GUAN XING AND ZHANG BAO, HIDE YOUR TROOPS IN THE HILLS AS WELL. IF YOU SEE ENEMIES RETREATING YOUR WAY, LET THEM PASS AND THEN CHASE THEM RIGHT INTO THE ENEMY CAMPS.

THE REMAINING OFFICERS ARE TO GATHER UP FIREWOOD AND PILE THEM UP INSIDE OUR CAMPS, SO AS TO SERVE AS A FIRE SIGNAL WHEN THE ENEMY COMES TO ATTACK OUR CAMPS.

UNDER-STOOD.

YES, SIR.

YES, SIR.

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YES, THEIR GENERALS ARE QUIETLY SLIPPING AWAY FROM THE CAMPS.

THE SHU TROOPS APPEAR TO BE PREPARING FOR SOMETHING?

MY GUT INSTINCTS TELL ME THEY'RE PLANNING FOR AN AMBUSH OR...

GUO HUAI, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS?

THEN HOW SHOULD WE BEST COUNTER THEM?

YES, I THINK SO TOO.

PERHAPS A NIGHT RAID?

AND WHAT OF THE OTHER TWO GROUPS?

WHY DON'T WE SPLIT OUR FORCES INTO 4? TWO CAN HEAD THROUGH THE WOODS TO APPROACH THEIR CAMPS IN SECRET. IF THE ENEMIES ARE PLANNING TO RAID OUR CAMPS TONIGHT, THEN THEIR OWN CAMPS WILL BE VULNERABLE TO A RAID IN RETURN.

SPLENDID! A PLAN TO COUNTER THEIR RAIDING FORCE *AND* RAID THE ENEMY'S MAIN CAMPS AS WELL!

THE OTHER TWO CAN HIDE JUST OUTSIDE OUR CAMPS SO THAT THEY CAN AMBUSH ANY ENEMY FORCE THAT COMES TO RAID OUR CAMPS.

YES?

YES?

CAO ZUN! ZHU ZAN!

YES, SIR.

YOU WILL EACH TAKE 10,000 TROOPS AND HEAD AROUND THE BACK OF QISHAN HILLS TO DISCREETLY APPROACH THE ENEMY CAMPS. ONCE THE ENEMY FORCES COME TO ATTACK OUR CAMPS, YOU'RE TO HEAD IN AND RETURN THE FAVOUR!

GUO HUAI?

YES, SIR.

HOWEVER, SINCE WE DO NOT KNOW FOR CERTAIN IF THE ENEMIES WILL RAID OUR CAMPS TONIGHT, HOLD OFF THE ATTACK AND WITHDRAW IF YOU DO NOT SPOT ANY ENEMIES HEADING TOWARDS HERE.

YES?

YES.

DEPLOY YOUR TROOPS OUTSIDE OUR CAMPS ON THE LEFT SIDE. I'LL DO THE SAME ON THE RIGHT SIDE.

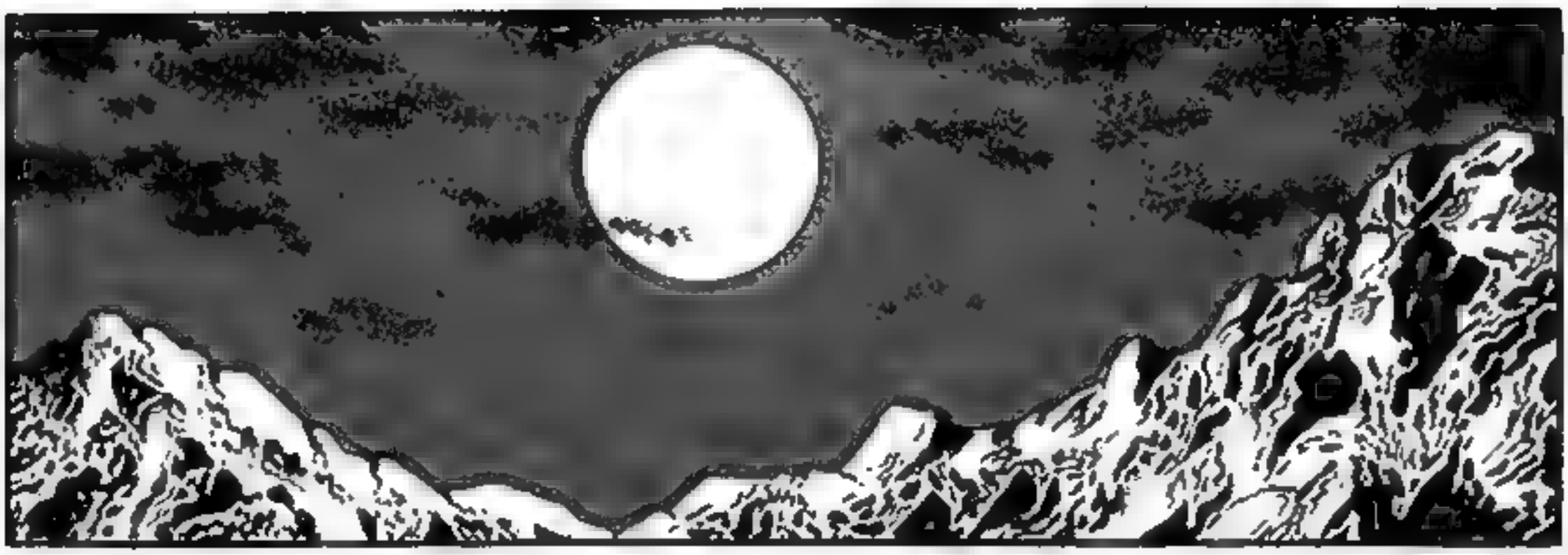
CAO ZHEN ORDERED A DARING COUNTER PLAN, SPLITTING HIS FORCE INTO 4, SO THAT THE SHU FORCES COULD BE SWEPT AWAY IN ONE FELL SWOOP

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CAO ZHEN AND GUO HUAI WOULD AMBUSH THE SHU RAIDERS.

WHILE CAO ZUN AND ZHU ZAN WOULD BURN DOWN THE ENEMY CAMPS




GENERAL CAO ZUN!








SO THEY REALLY ARE PLANNING TO RAID OUR CAMPS TONIGHT...

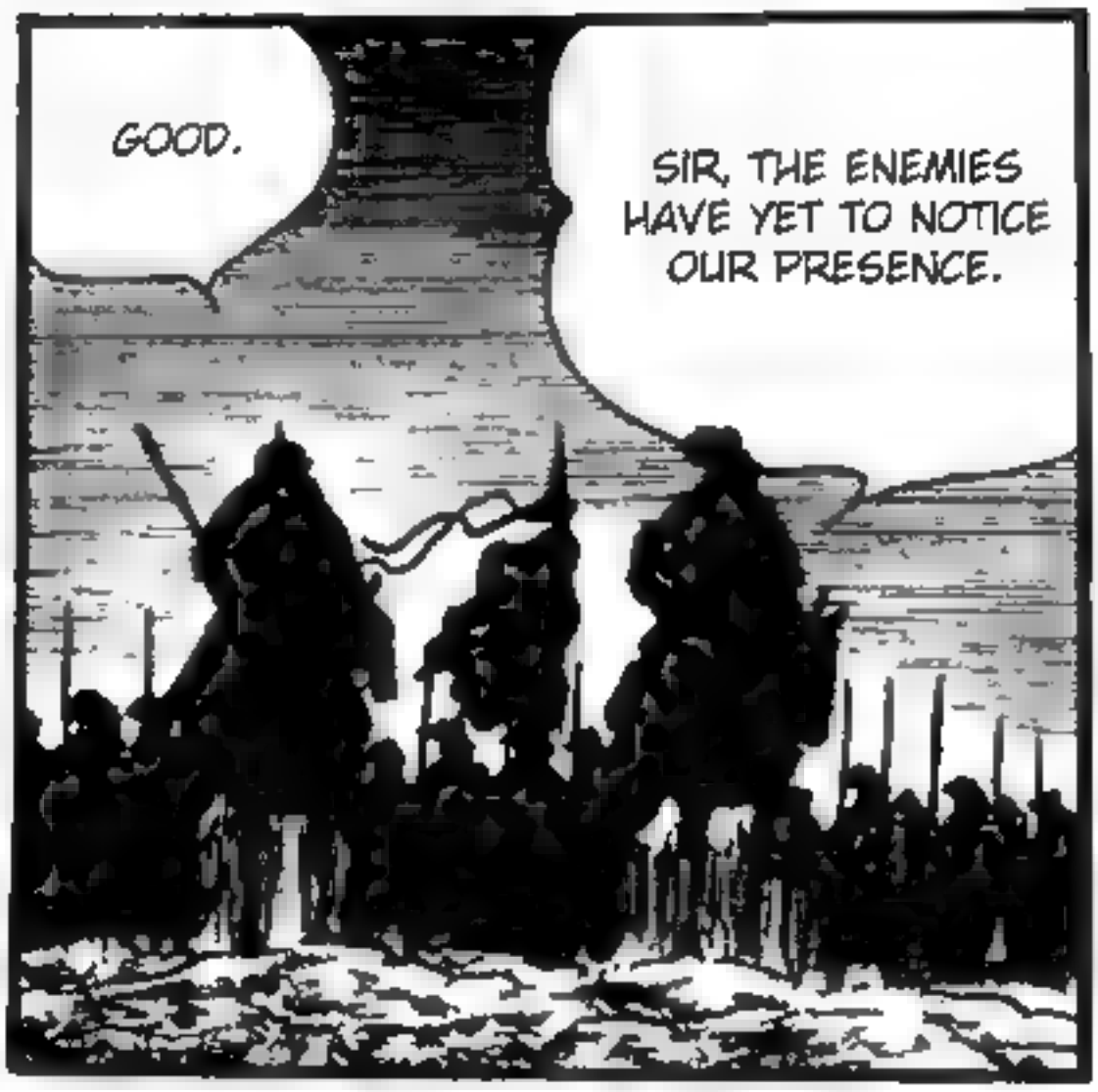

THOSE ARE SHU TROOPS!

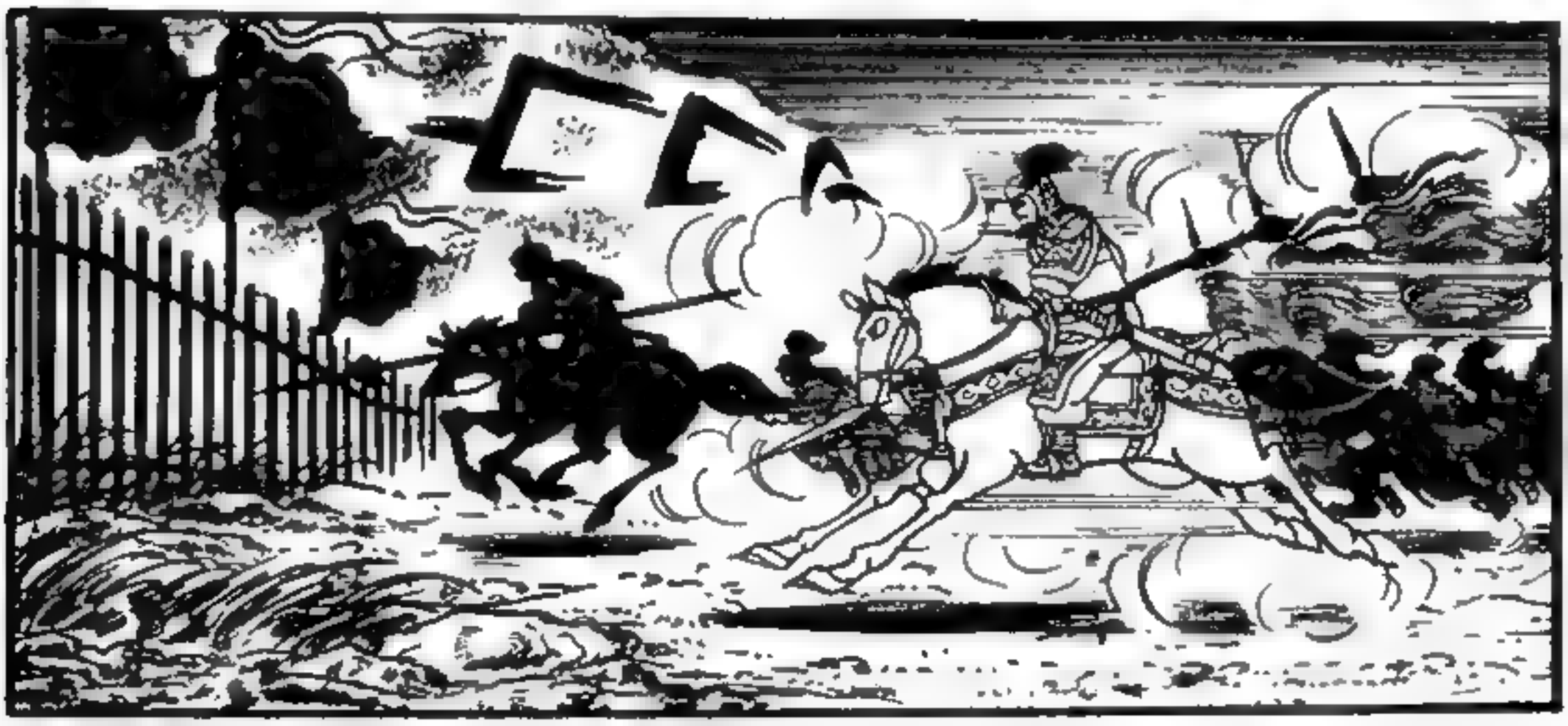

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SEE THAT, MEN? THE SHU CAMPS WILL ONLY BE LIGHTLY DEFENDED TONIGHT! NOW'S OUR CHANCE!





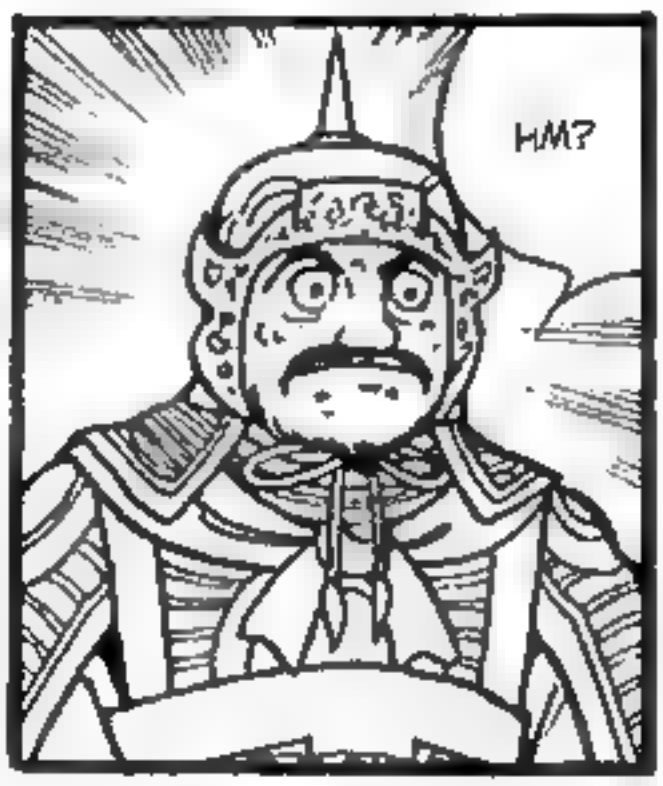

SWOOP IN AND DESTROY ALL BEFORE YOU!


GOOD.
SIR, THE ENEMIES HAVE YET TO NOTICE OUR PRESENCE.





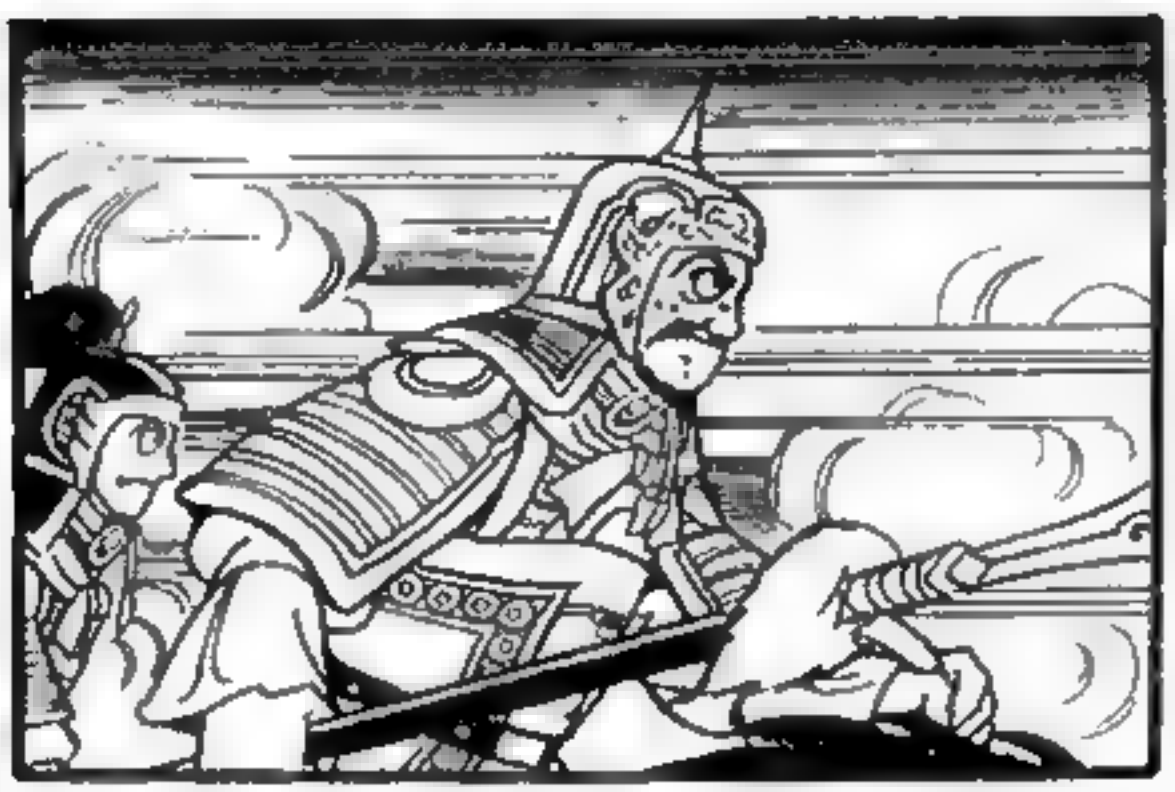



HM?


AHH!


THIS IS DEFINITELY NOT NORMAL...
THE CAMPS ARE COMPLETELY EMPTY, SIR!

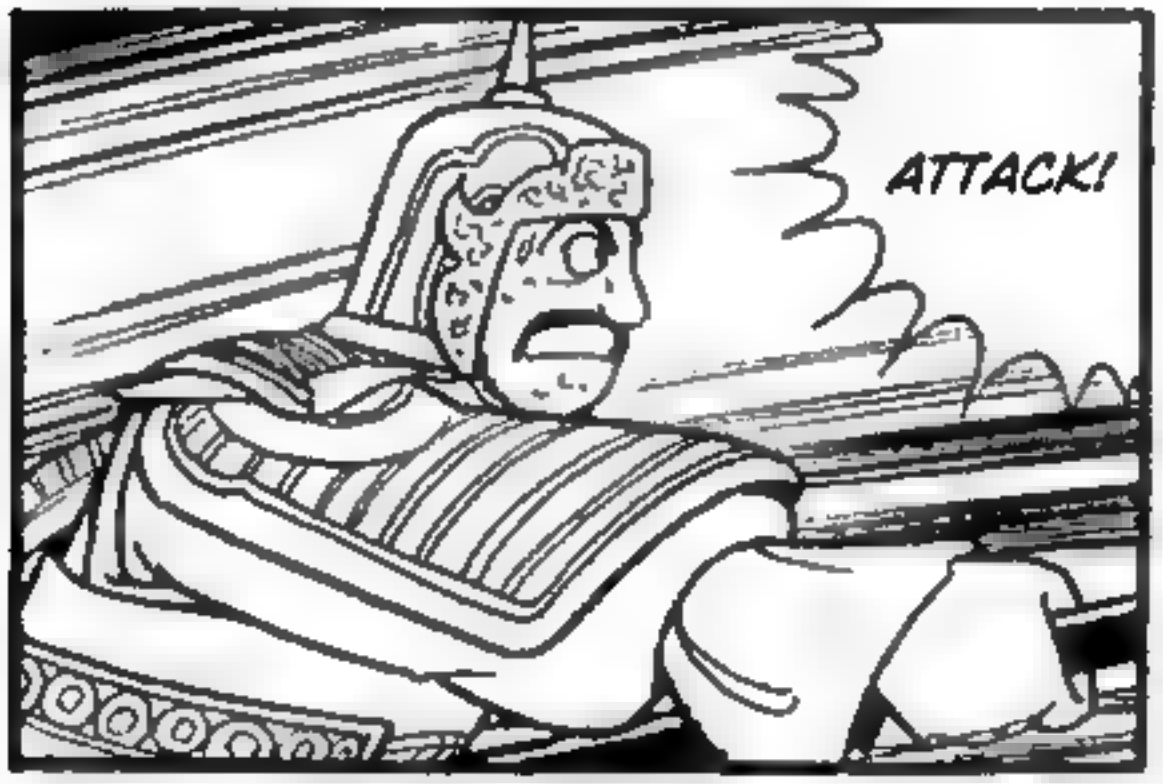

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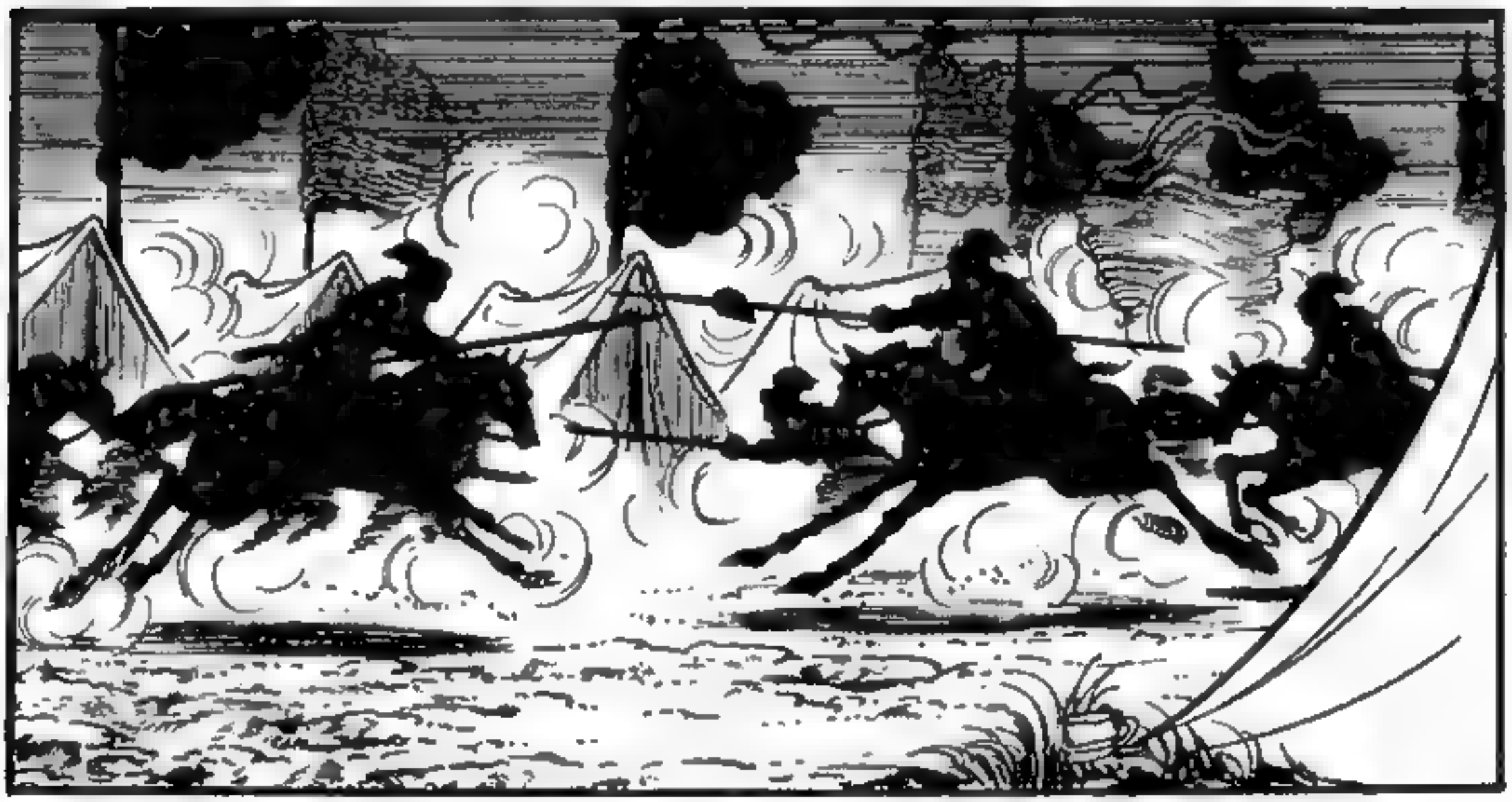

THIS MAY BE AN ENEMY TRAP! WITHDRAW!


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ATTACK!


I KNEW IT! IT'S AN ENEMY FORCE TRYING TO AMBUSH US!




K"


K"



PREPARE TO DIE!

NGHH!

CAO ZUN!?

WAIT, WHA? ZHU ZAN!?


HALT!
HALT!


THEN OUR TROOPS WERE FIGHTING EACH OTHER!?


WE'RE FELLOW WEI TROOPS! CEASE ATTACKING!




JUST THEN, WANG PING,


MA DAI,

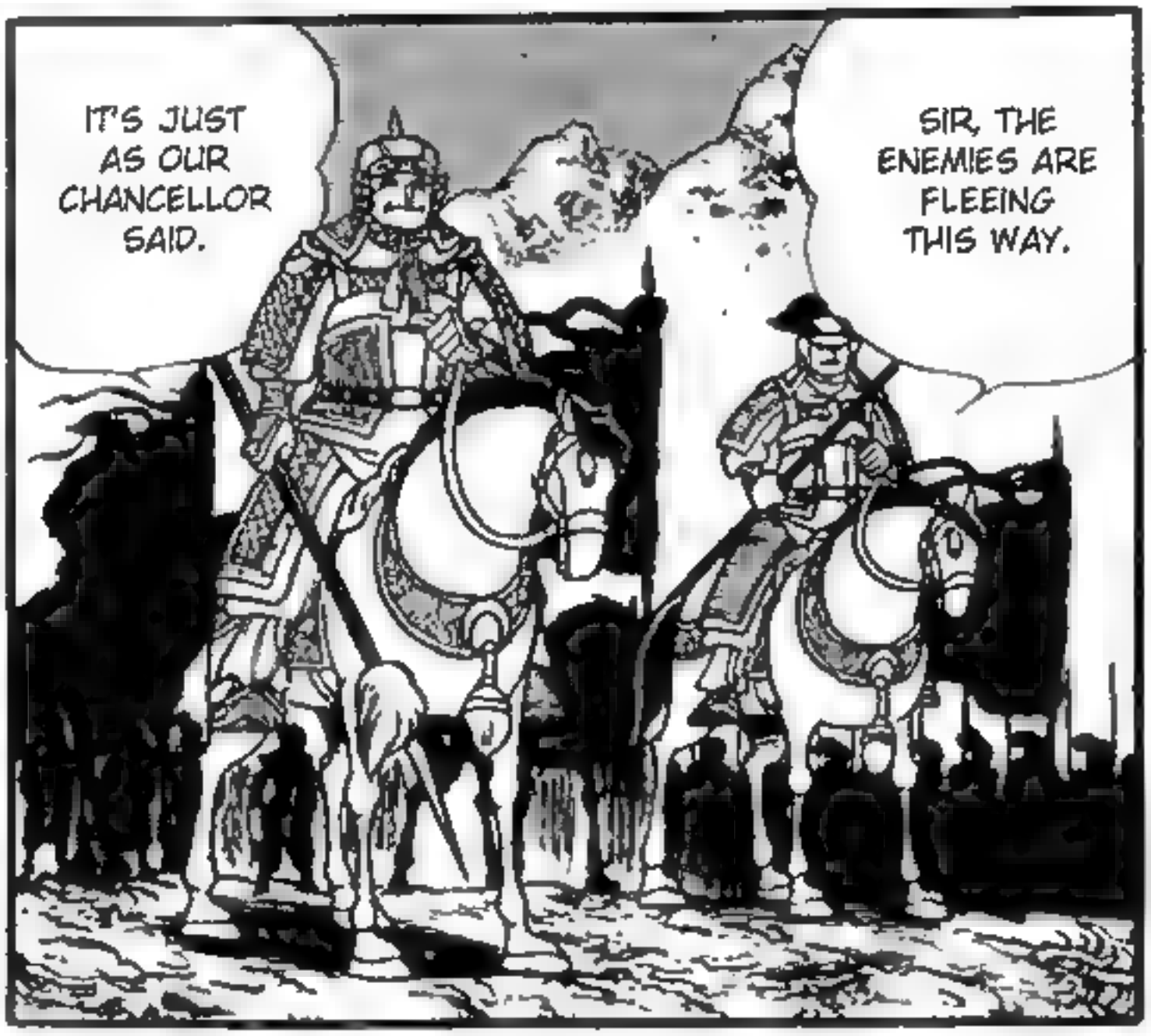

ZHANG NI,


AND ZHANG YI SURROUNDED THE WEI TROOPS ON ALL 4 SIDES.


SURPRISED CONFUSED, AND OVER-WHELMED,
AND THEIR BLOOD STAINED THE SHU CAMPS.
THE WEI TROOPS WERE CUT DOWN ONE BY ONE.
CAO ZUN AND ZHU ZAN NARROWLY MANAGED TO ESCAPE WITH THEIR HEADS INTACT


HOWEVER, THEY WERE RETREATING THROUGH THE PATH THAT ZHAO ZILONG WAS WAITING ON.


ALRIGHT, LET THEM PASS BEFORE BEGINNING OUR PURSUIT.


IT'S JUST AS OUR CHANCELLOR SAID.
SIR, THE ENEMIES ARE FLEEING THIS WAY.



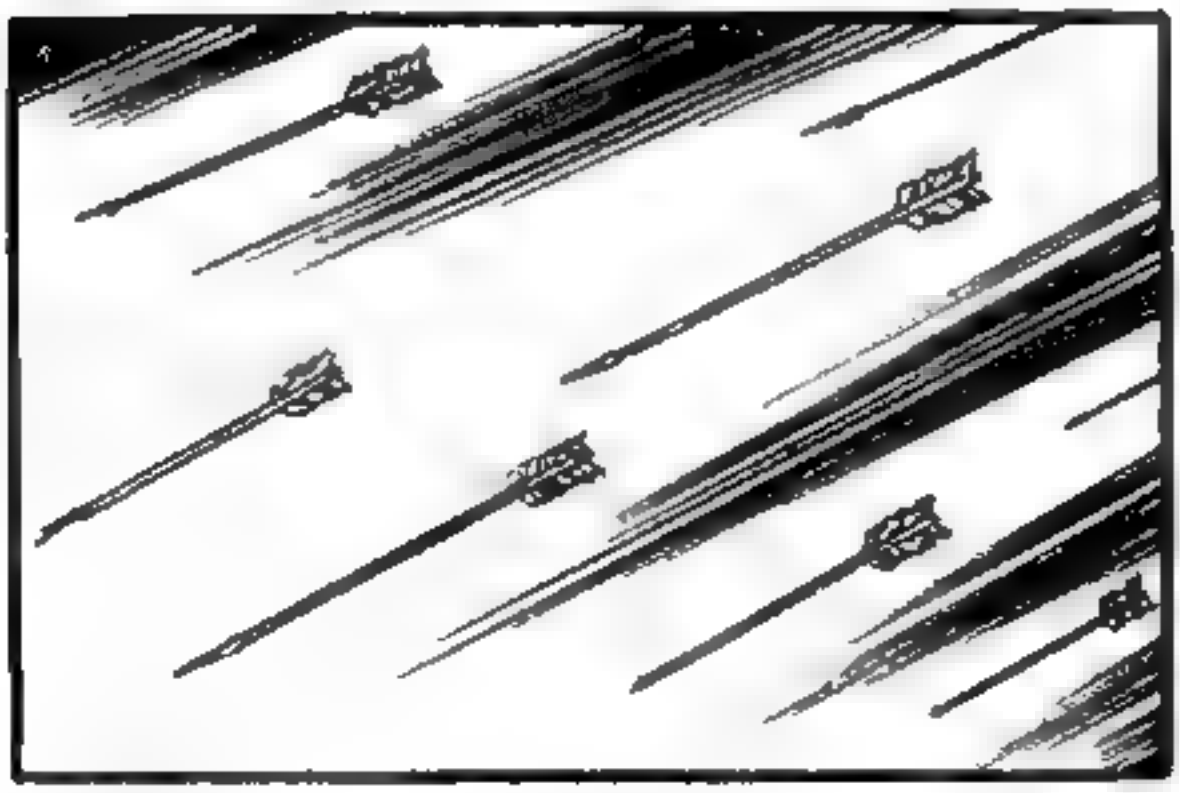


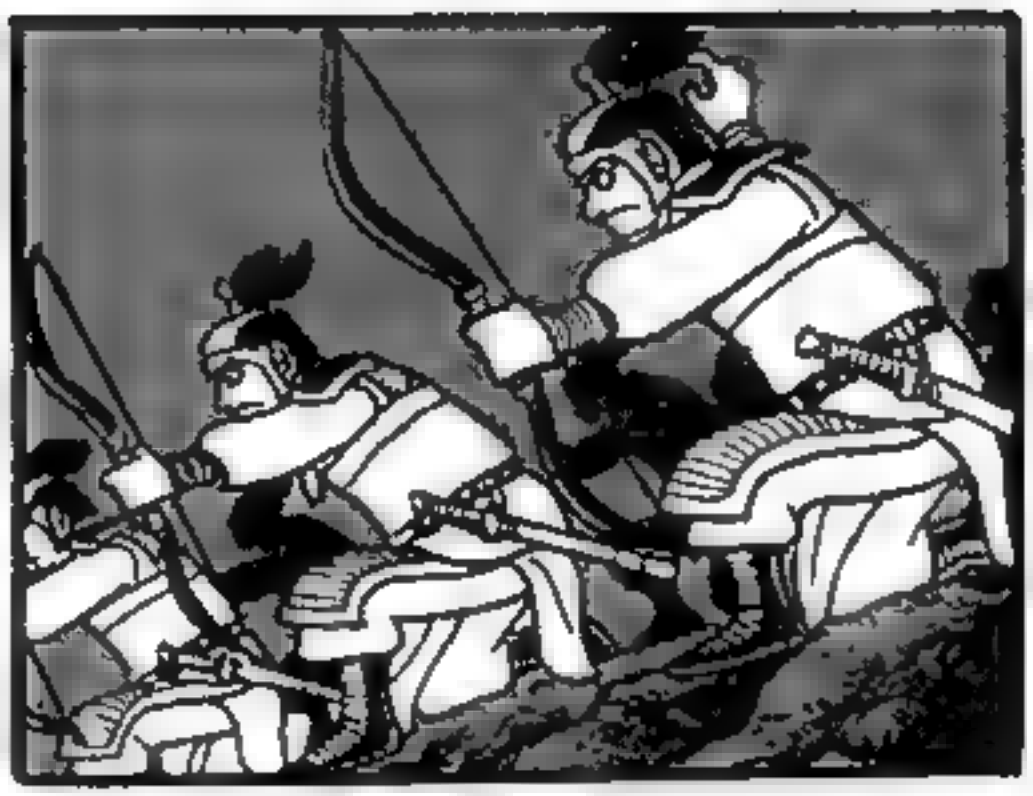

NOW!

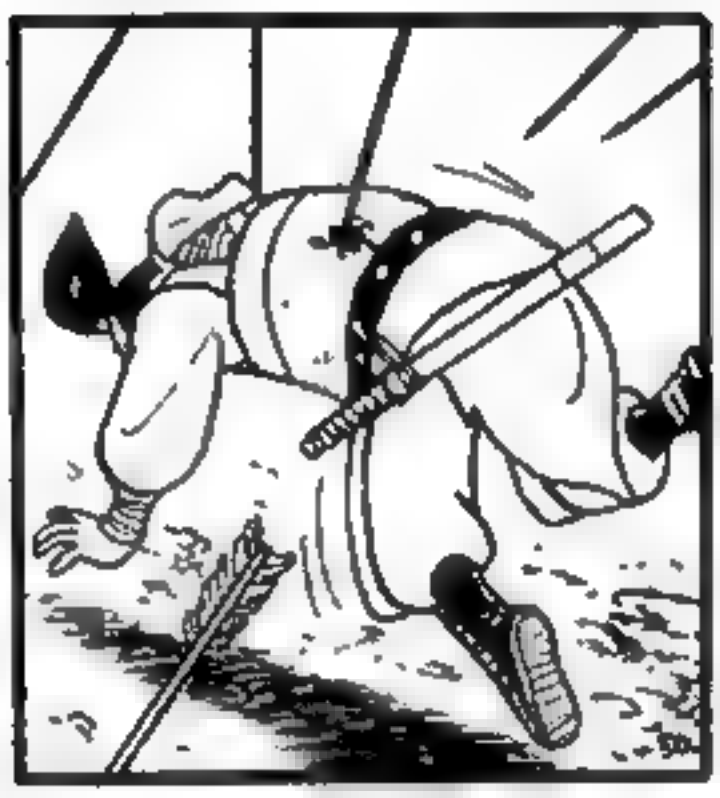

KEEP RUNNING!
IT'S ANOTHER AMBUSH!


AGHH!














HUFF
HUFF


WHA!

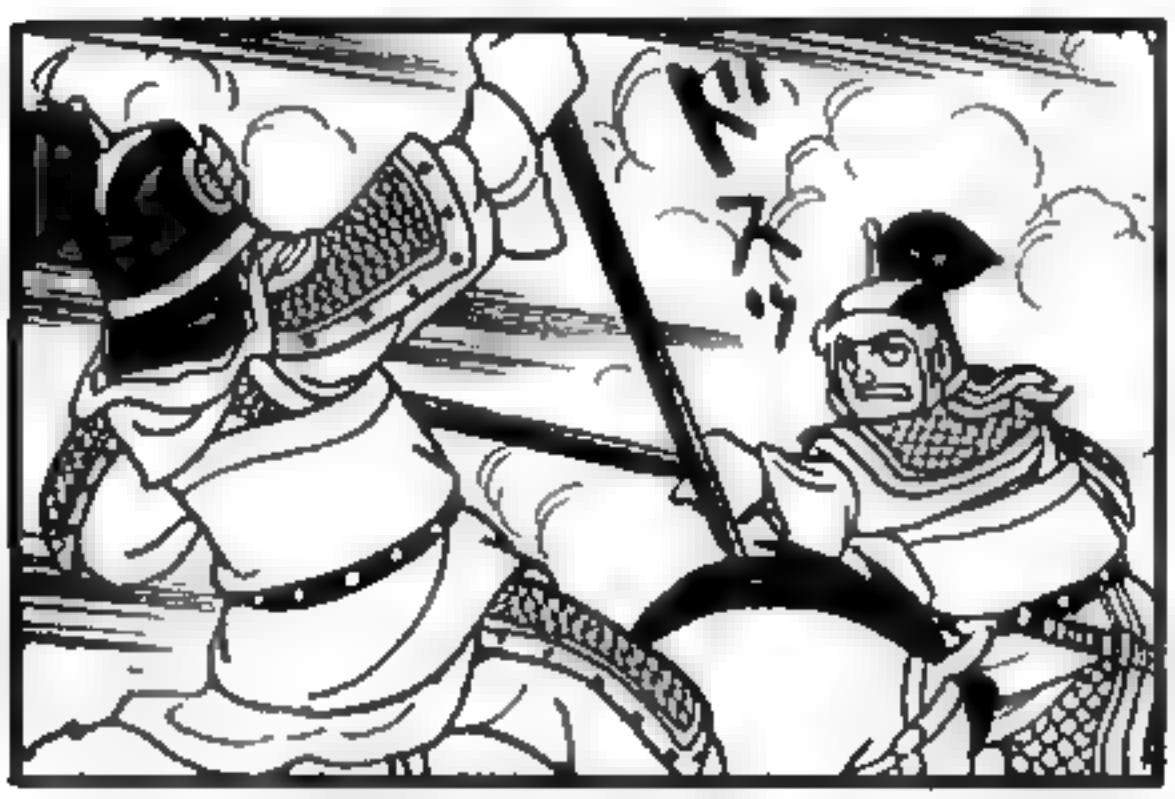



DON'T TELL ME...!


NOW'S OUR CHANCE! GIVE THEM CHASE!




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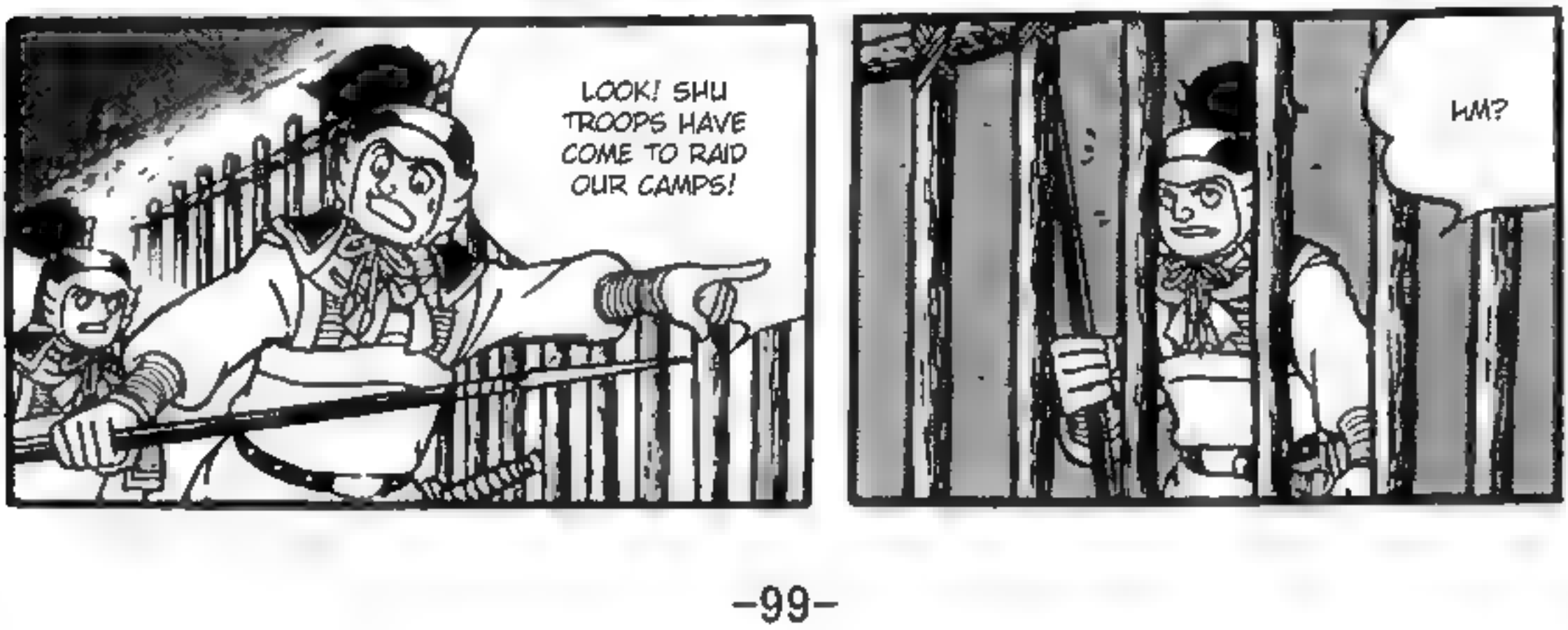

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WE'LL BE ANNHILATED IF WE STAND AND FIGHT HERE!


NGHH!

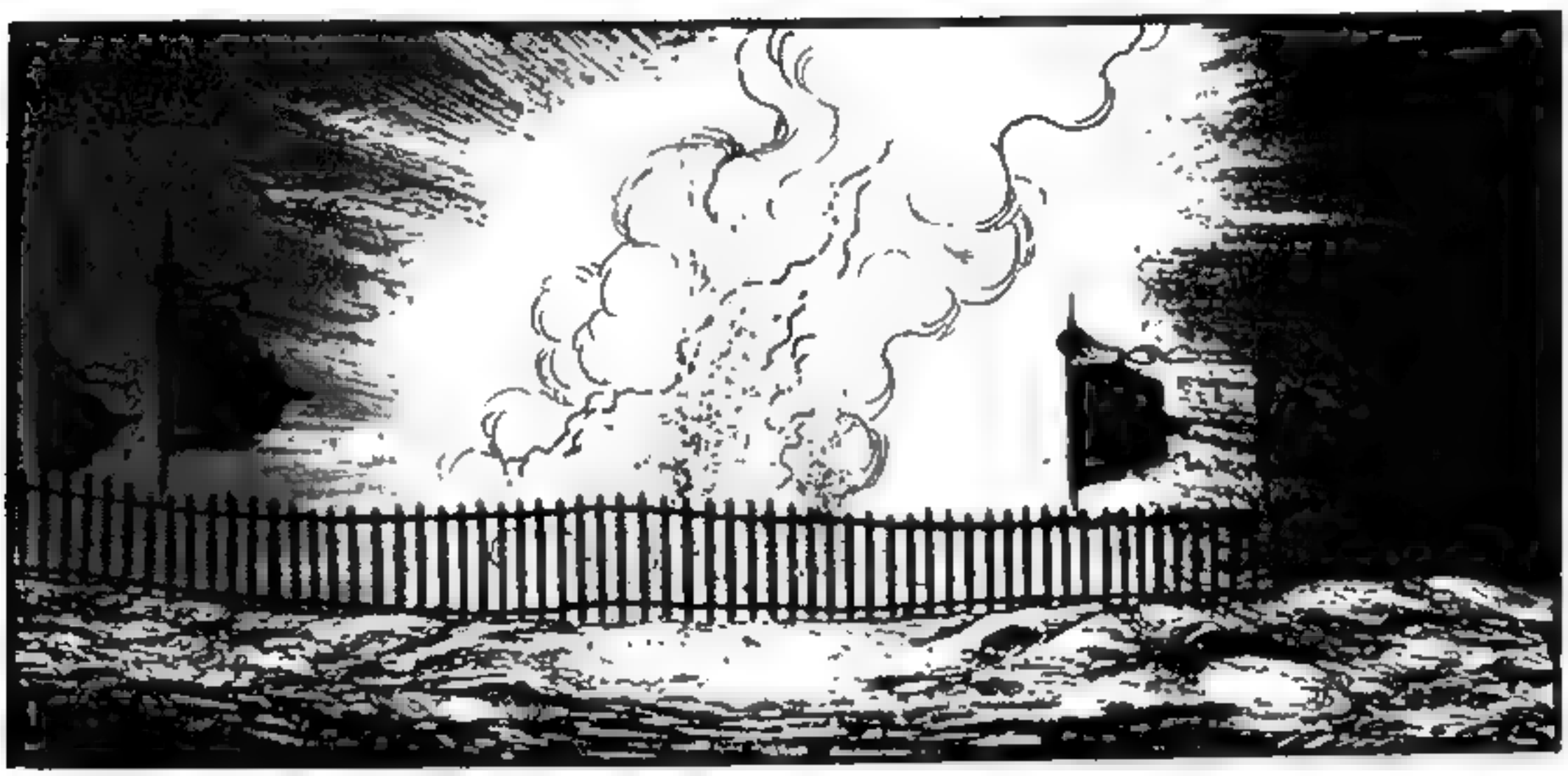

OUR ONLY HOPE OF SURVIVAL IS TO RETREAT BACK TO CAMP!

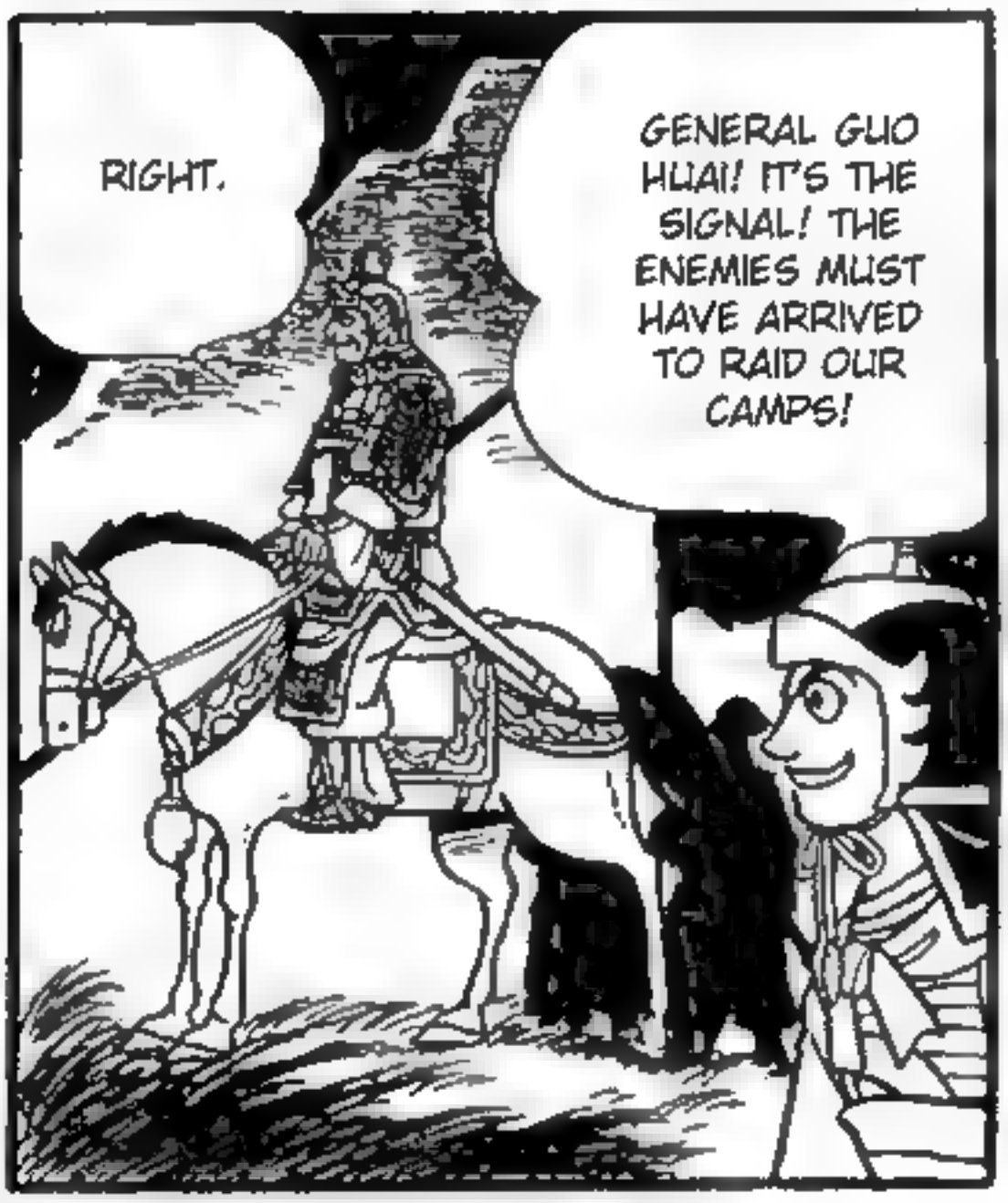



LOOK! SHU TROOPS HAVE COME TO RAID OUR CAMPS!
HM?

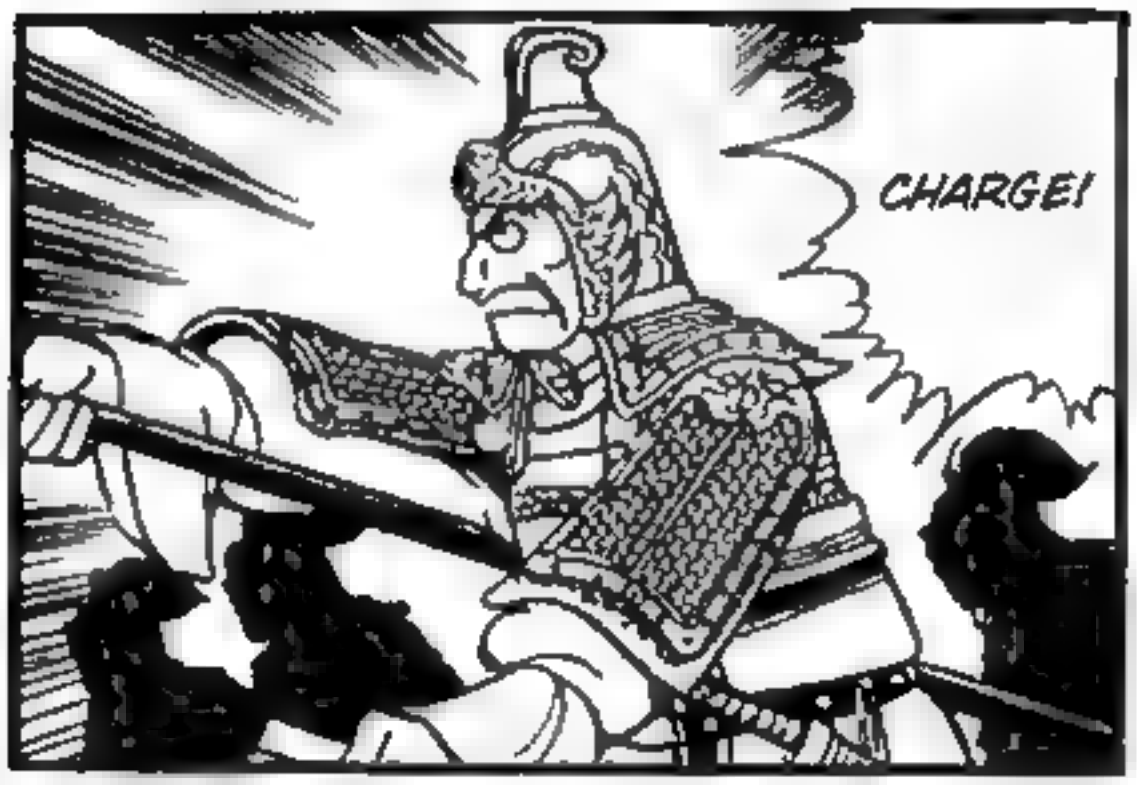



YES, SIR!
LIGHT THE SIGNAL!




RIGHT.
GENERAL GUO HUAI! IT'S THE SIGNAL! THE ENEMIES MUST HAVE ARRIVED TO RAID OUR CAMPS!


YES.
COMMANDER! THAT'S THE SIGNAL!


CHARGE!

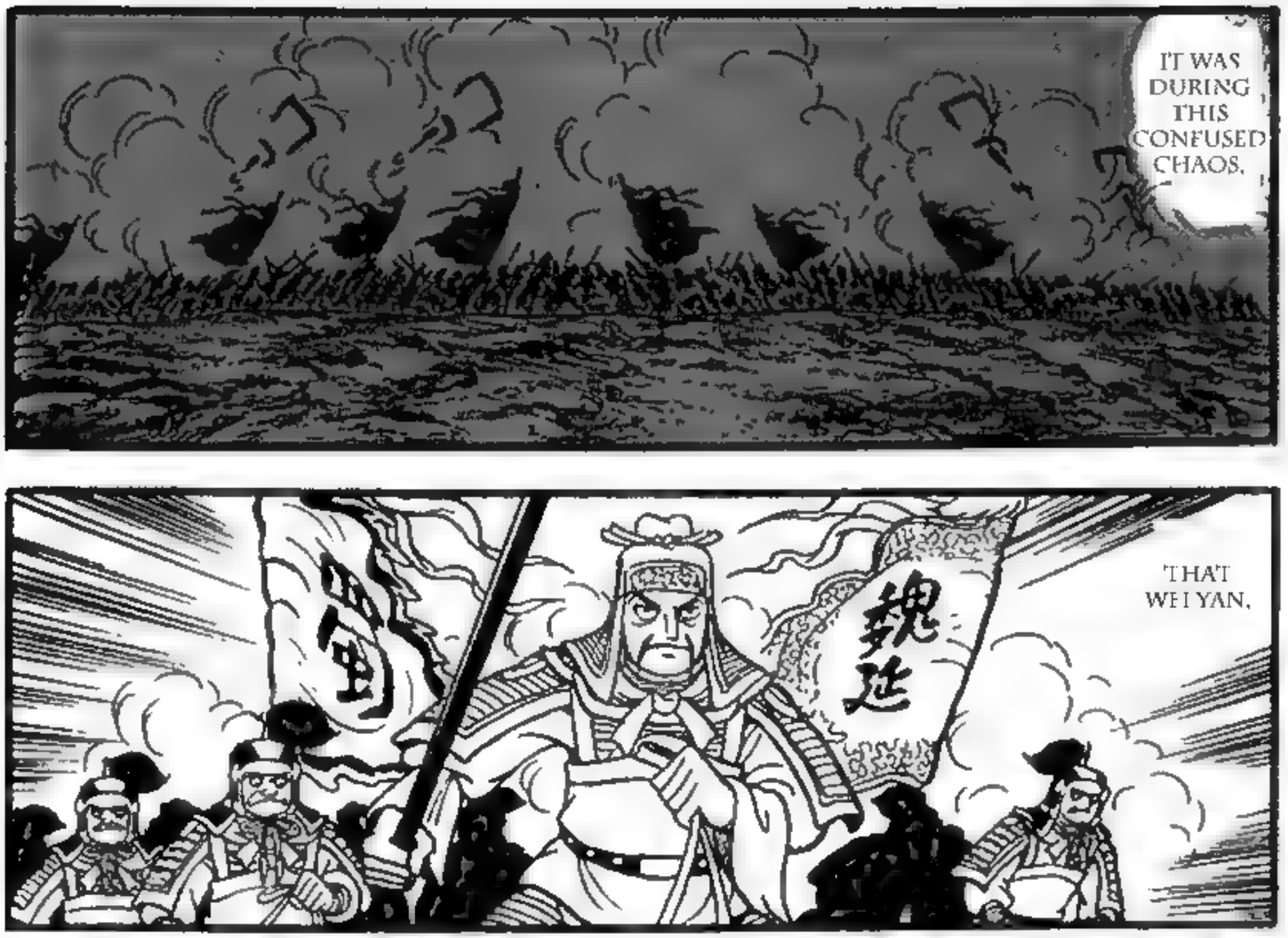

NOW'S OUR CHANCE TO CRUSH THE ENEMIES!






AGHHH!


THIS IS ZHU ZAN! CAN'T YOU RECOG-NIZE ME!?
NO, WAIT! WE'RE ON YOUR SIDE!
BUT THEIR PLEAS WERE DROWNED IN A SEA OF WARCRIES
WEI TROOPS BEGAN KILLING EACH OTHER ONCE MORE


IT WAS DURING THIS CONFUSED CHAOS,
THAT WEI YAN,
魏延
GUAN XING,
AND ZHANG BAO CHARGED IN THE CENTER.


THE WEI ARMY WAS NOW IN COMPLETE CHAOS.









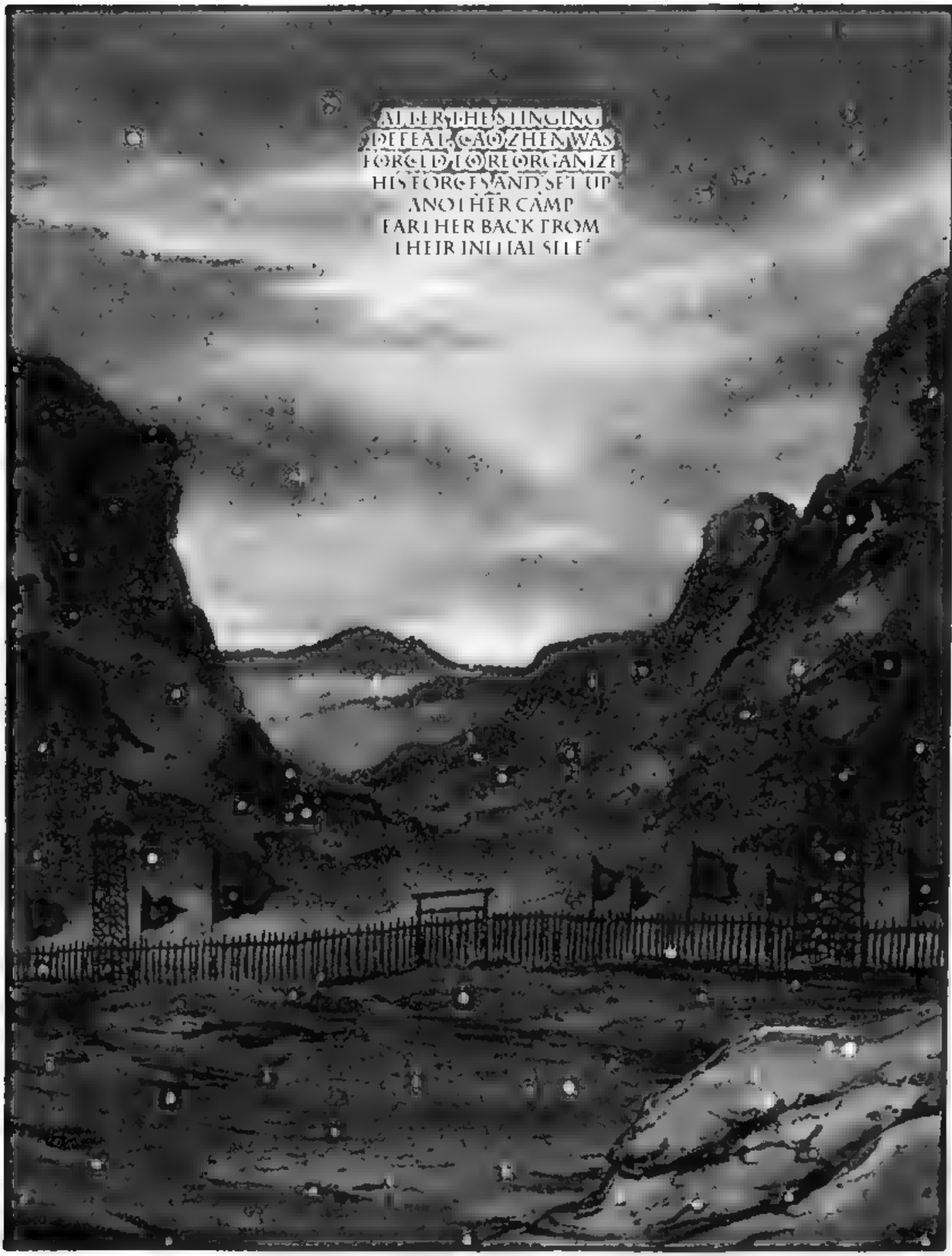

RETREAT!
RETREAT!
RETREAT!


CAO ZHEN AND GUO HUAI MANAGED TO CUT THEIR WAY OUT.


THE SUN'S RAYS AT DAWN FINALLY REVEALED THE AFTER-MATH OF BATTLE
WHERE ONCE LAY THE WEI CAMP WAS NOW AN OCEAN OF BLOOD AND CORPSES


ONCE AGAIN,
KONGMING'S PLAN
TO COUNTER THE
ENEMY'S COUNTER
PLAN RESULTED IN A
DECISIVE VICTORY
FOR SHU

# IRON CHARIOTS OF WESTERN QIANG



WORRY NOT, SIR, FOR I HAVE A PLAN TO DEAL WITH THAT SCENARIO.

GUO HUAI, I FEAR THE ENEMIES WILL QUICKLY PRESS DOWN ON US BEFORE WE FINISH REORGANIZING AND FULLY SETTING UP PROPER DEFENSIVE LINES.

WE CALL UP THE WESTERN QIANG TROOPS.

PLEASE LEND ME YOUR WISDOM THEN.

WE HAVE MAINTAINED TRADE RELATIONS WITH THEM SINCE THE DAYS OF EMPEROR TAIZU. MOREOVER, OUR IMPERIAL COURT HAS BESTOWED THEIR CURRENT KING WITH PRESTIGIOUS TITLES TO SUPPORT HIS LEGITIMACY.

THE WESTERN QIANG TRIBES!?

*TAIZU, TEMPLE NAME FOR CAO CAO. TAIZU LITERALLY MEANS GREAT ANCESTOR AND IS THUS OFTEN USED FOR THE FOUNDER OF A DYNASTY

ATTACK THE ENEMY FROM BEHIND...!?

THE WESTERN QIANG TRADE WITH MANY PEOPLE TO THE FAR WEST, AND THEIR WAYS OF FIGHTING REFLECT THIS. IF WE CAN GET THEM TO ATTACK THE ENEMY FROM THE REAR, THEIR UNORTHODOX METHODS MAY POSE A FORMIDABLE CHALLENGE TO SHU.

AS LONG AS WE ASK GRACIOUSLY AND PROMISE THEM MANY VALUABLE HAN GOODS, I SEE LITTLE REASON WHY THEY WOULD REFUSE.

BUT WILL THEY REALLY GO TO WAR FOR OUR SAKE?

YES, SIR.

ALRIGHT, SEND AN ENVOY AT ONCE.

CAO ZHEN IMMEDIATELY SENT AN ENVOY AT THE HEAD OF A LINE OF WAGONS FILLED WITH VALUABLE GOODS

THE WESTERN QIANG TRIBES LIVED IN NORTH-WEST CHINA, INCORPORATING VARIOUS PROTO-TIBETAN AND MONGOLIAN ETHNICITIES

THEIR LOCATION AT THE FAR EAST'S CORRIDOR TO THE SILK ROUTE MADE THEM PROSPEROUS THROUGH TRADE AND OPEN TO MANY FOREIGN CULTURAL ELEMENTS. THEY WERE ESPECIALLY FAMED FOR THEIR SKILL WITH THE BOW AND SPEAR.

YES, SIR.

COMMANDER CAO ZHEN REQUESTS MY TROOPS TO STRIKE THE REAR OF SHU FORCES?


AS YOU WISH, SIR.


VERY WELL, I WILL DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH MY MEN FIRST. YOU MAY EXCUSE YOURSELF FOR NOW.


AS YOU ALL JUST HEARD, WEI REQUESTS OUR ASSISTANCE IN ITS WAR AGAINST SHU. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THIS?


HM...

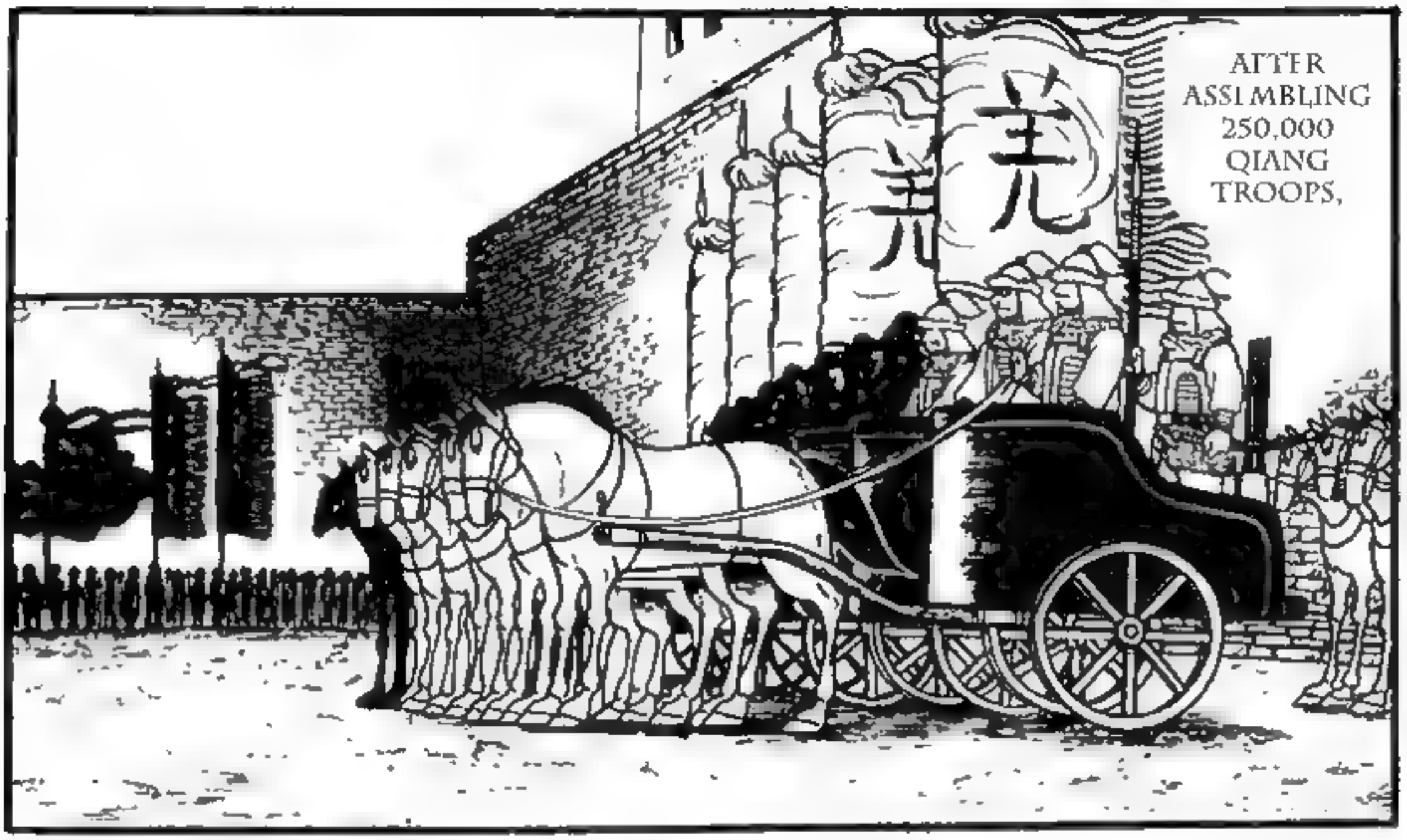

WE HAVE ALWAYS MAINTAINED FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH WEI. I BELIEVE IT IS BEST TO JOIN THIS WAR SO THAT WE MAY CONTINUE TO TRADE WITH THEM.


I ALSO THINK IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO SIMPLY ABANDON A FRIENDLY NEIGHBOUR.

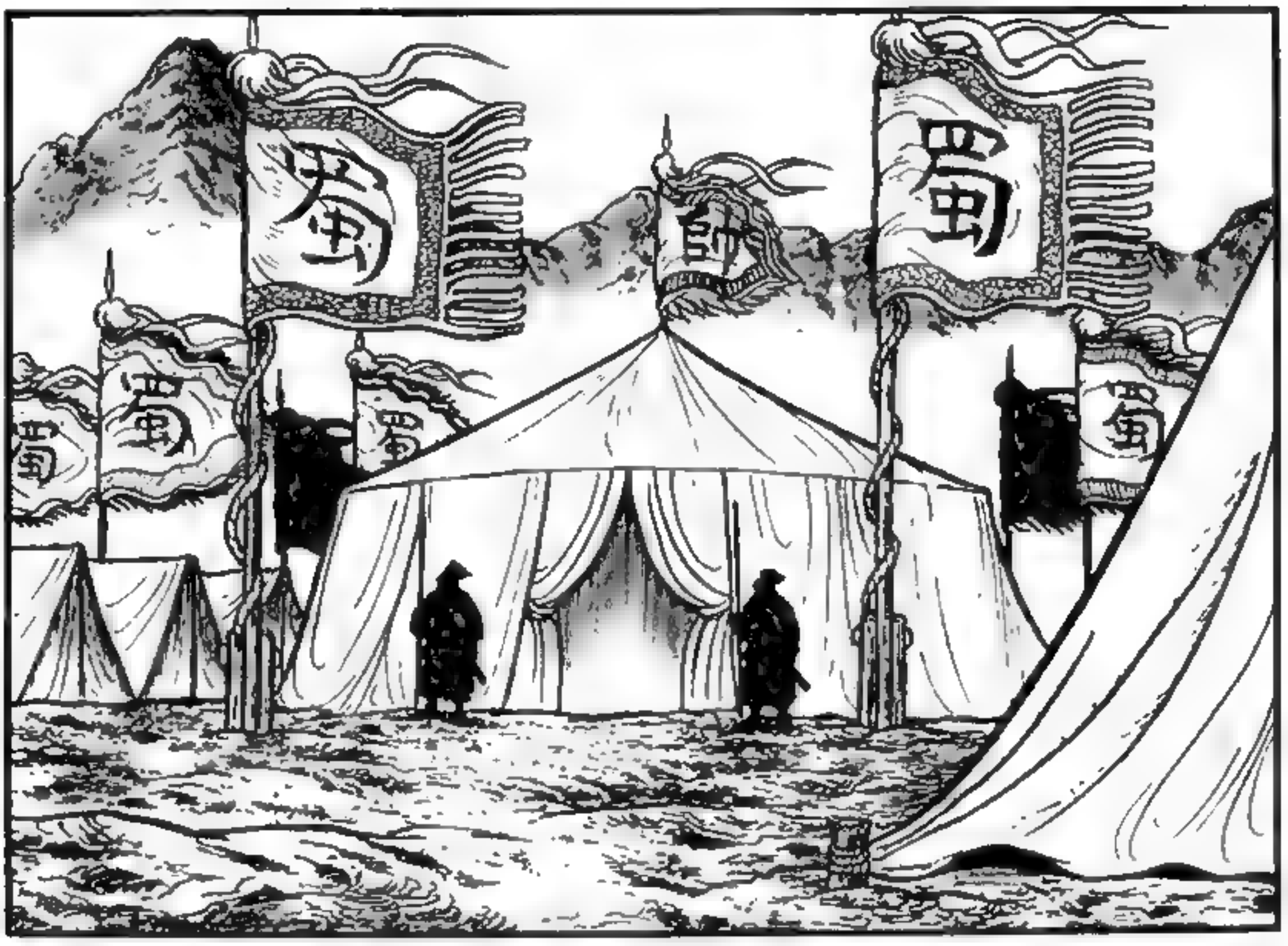

AND WHAT IS YOUR OPINION, YUE JI?


YES, SIR.
I HEREBY ORDER PRIME MINISTER YA DAN AND MARSHAL YUE JI TO LEAD A FORCE OF 250,000 TO ATTACK SHU.


YES, I FEEL THE SAME AS WELL.


AFTER ASSEMBLING 250,000 QIANG TROOPS,


YA DAN AND YUE JI SET OUT TO HALT THE SHU ADVANCE INTO WEI


YES, THEY HAVE MUSTERED A FORCE OF 250,000 AND ARE HEADING TO XIPING PASS AS WE SPEAK.
WHAT!? A WESTERN QIANG FORCE IS HEADING TOWARDS OUR REAR TO ASSIST WEI?

WHO HERE CAN DRIVE OFF THE WESTERN QIANG TROOPS?

THEY MUST BE DEALT WITH SWIFTLY...

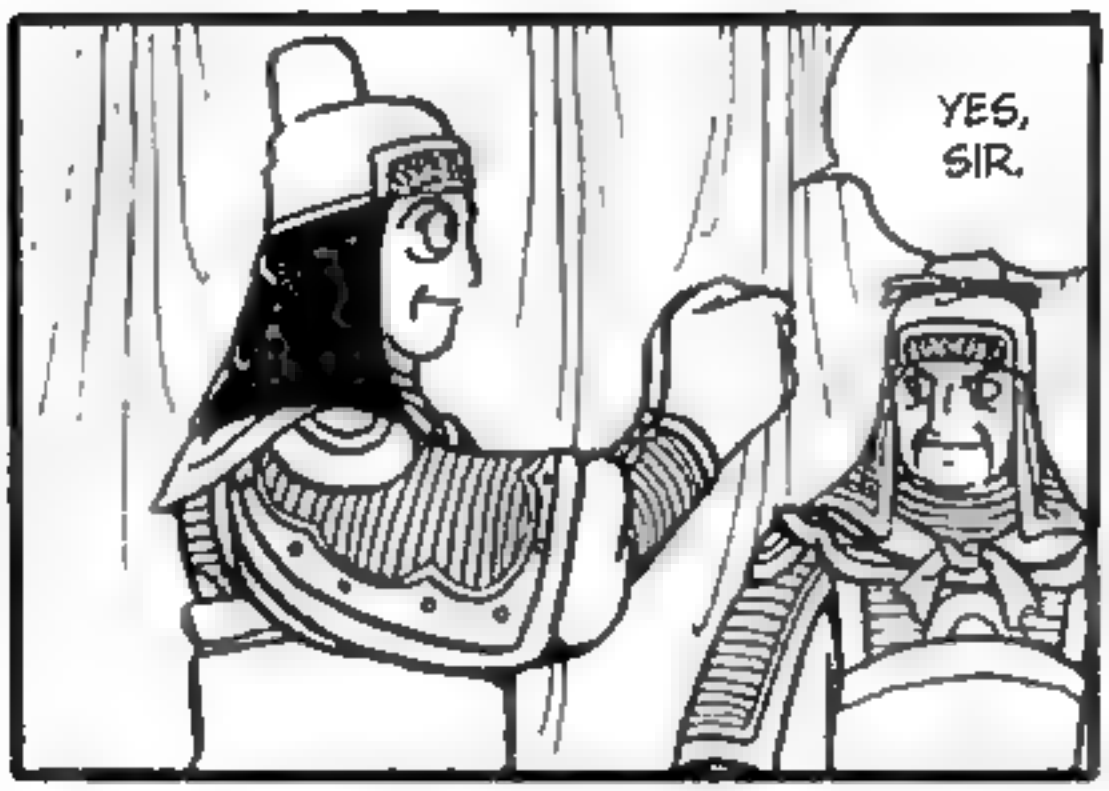
AH! GUAN XING AND ZHANG BAO!

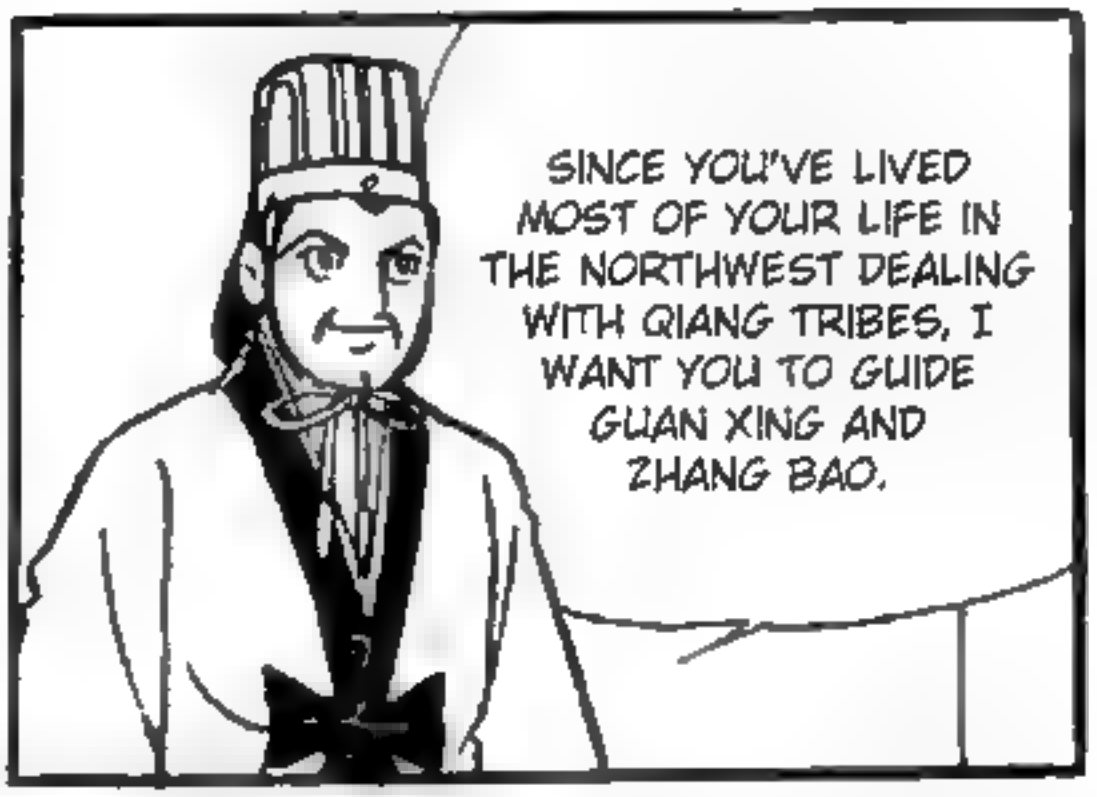
ALLOW US, CHANCELLOR.

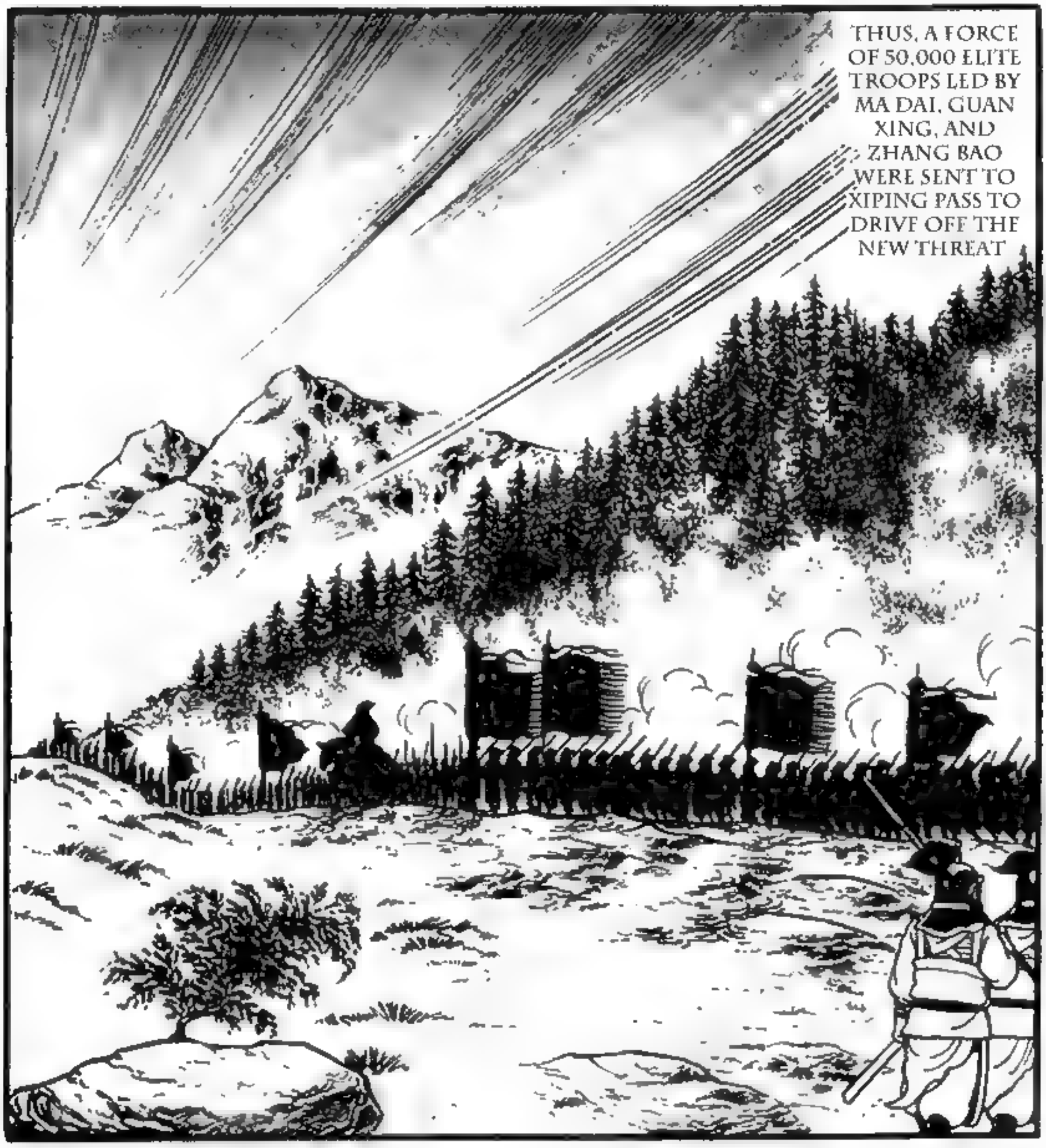
YES?

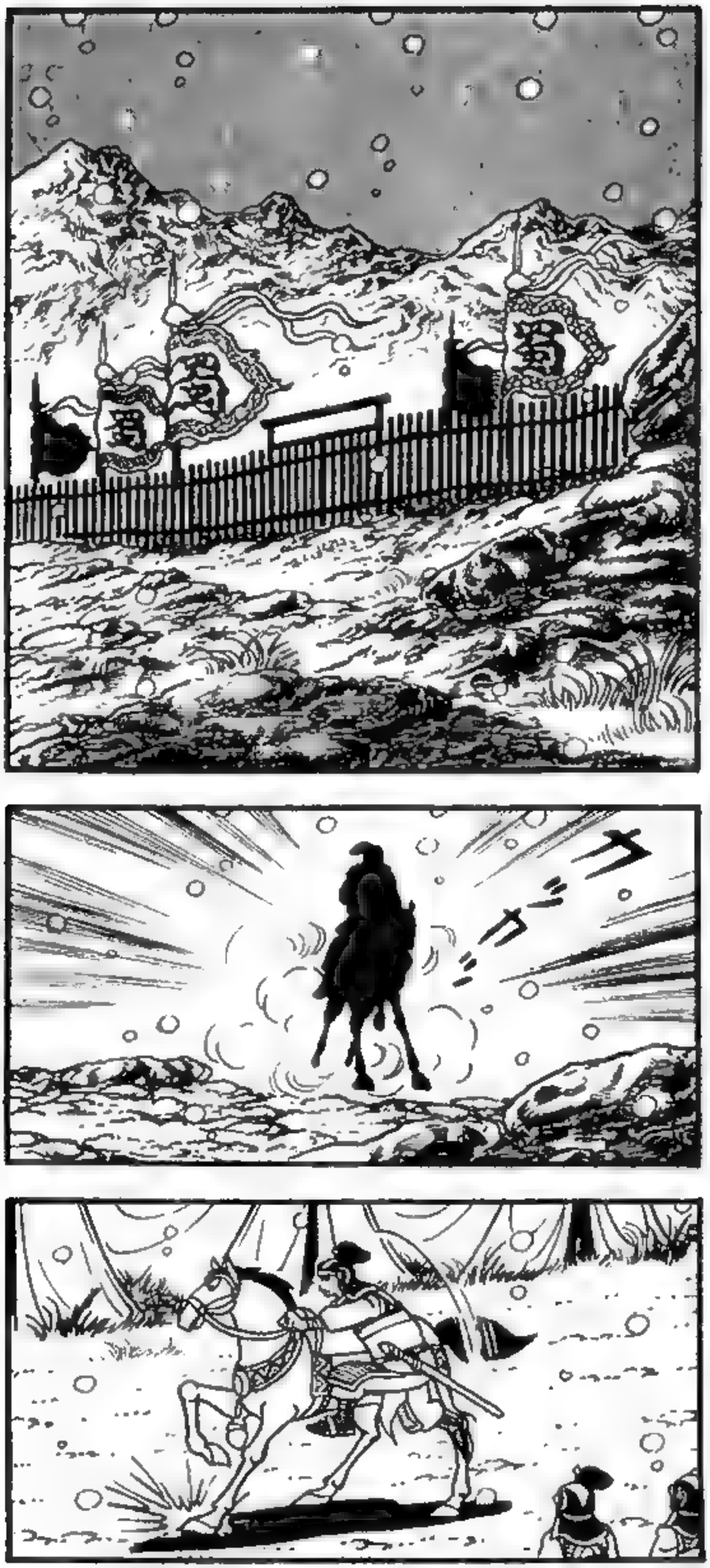
MA DAI.

BUT I'M AFRAID YOU TWO DO NOT KNOW THE LOCAL GEOG-RAPHY WELL ENOUGH.


YES, SIR.


SINCE YOU'VE LIVED MOST OF YOUR LIFE IN THE NORTHWEST DEALING WITH QIANG TRIBES, I WANT YOU TO GUIDE GUAN XING AND ZHANG BAO.


THUS, A FORCE OF 50,000 ELITE TROOPS LED BY MA DAI, GUAN XING, AND ZHANG BAO WERE SENT TO XIPING PASS TO DRIVE OFF THE NEW THREAT



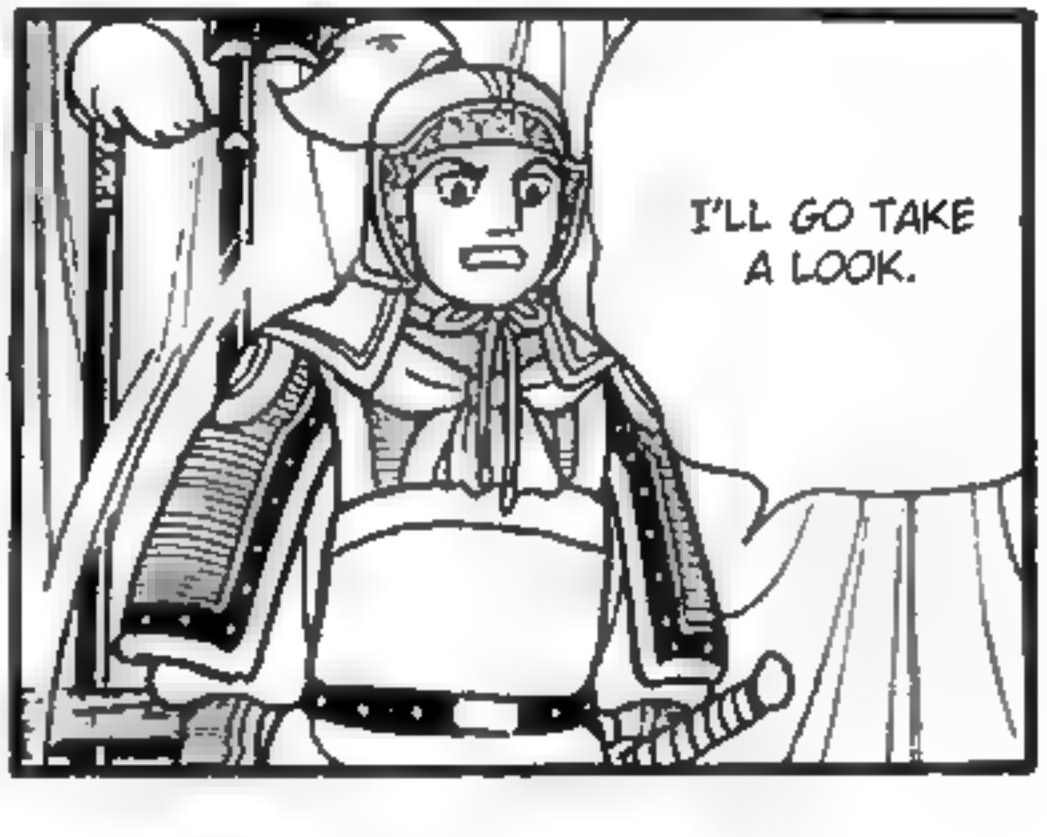


I BRING A REPORT!




WHAT!?
WE'VE SPOTTED THE ENEMY FORCE SETTING UP CAMP SEVERAL LI AHEAD FROM HERE.


YES, SIR.
LEAD THE WAY.

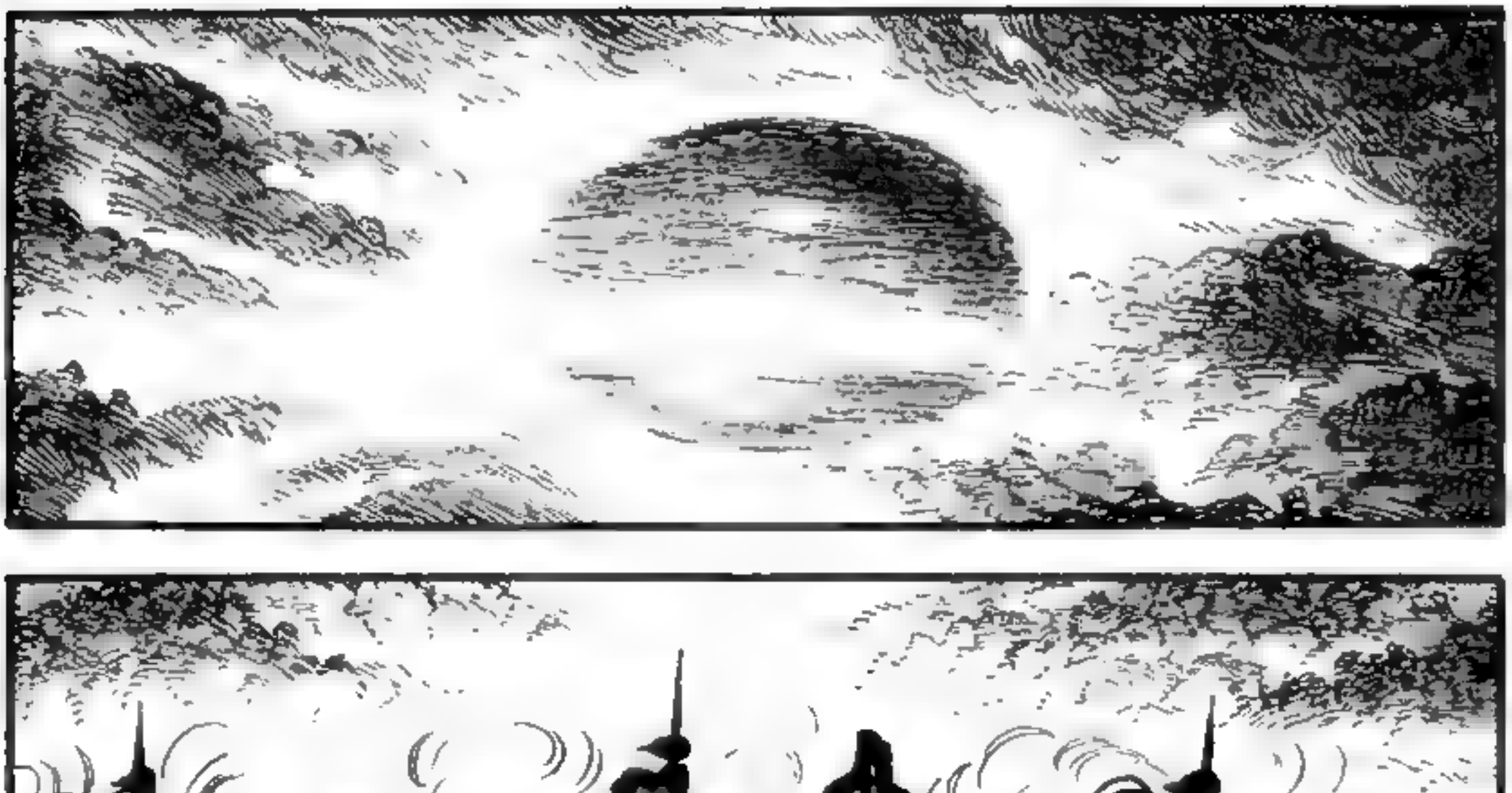

I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK.


HM...
OVER THERE, SIR.

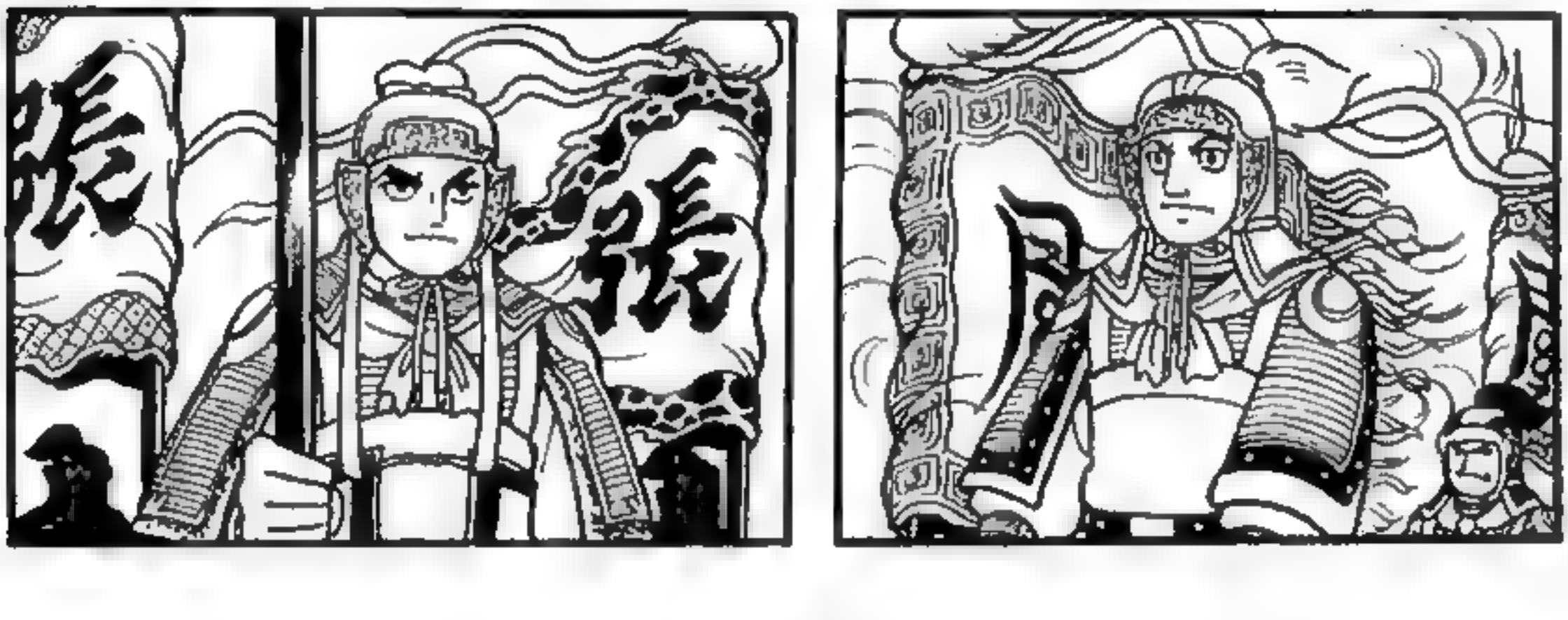

NEITHER HAVE I, SIR.
WHAT ARE THOSE THICK IRON CARTS SUPPOSED TO BE? WAR CHARIOTS? I'VE NEVER SEEN THEM BEFORE.
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR NOW.


蜀
IT'S NOT GOOD TO WORRY TOO MUCH BEFORE THE BATTLE EVEN BEGINS.
I'VE NEVER SEEN CHARIOTS SO LARGE AND PLATED WITH IRON BEFORE. I'M PERPLEXED AS TO HOW THEY'LL USE THEM IN BATTLE.


SOUNDS GOOD.
WE'LL GAUGE THEIR STRENGTH TOMORROW, THEN FORM AN APPROPRIATE STRATEGY.







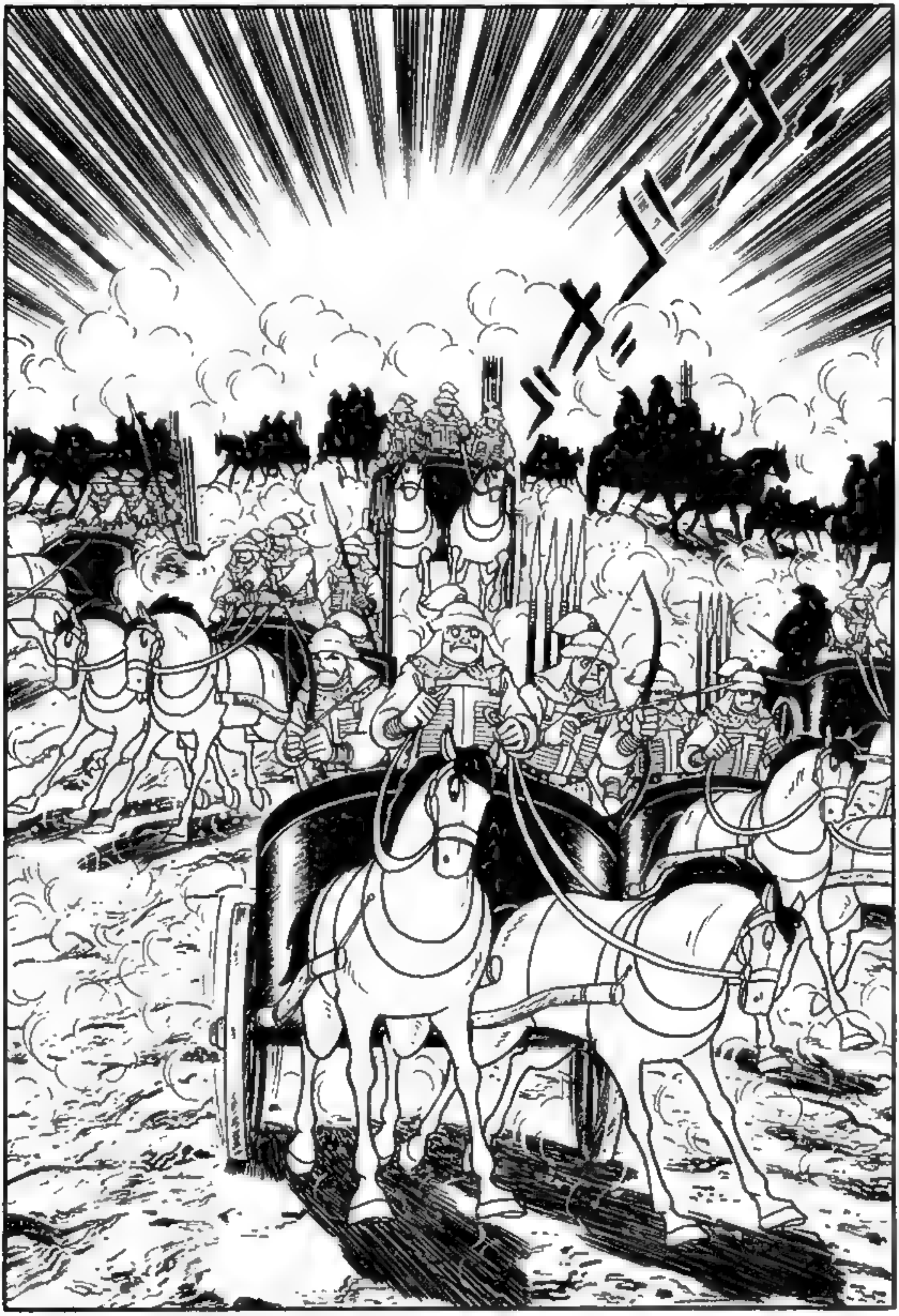
ATTACK!

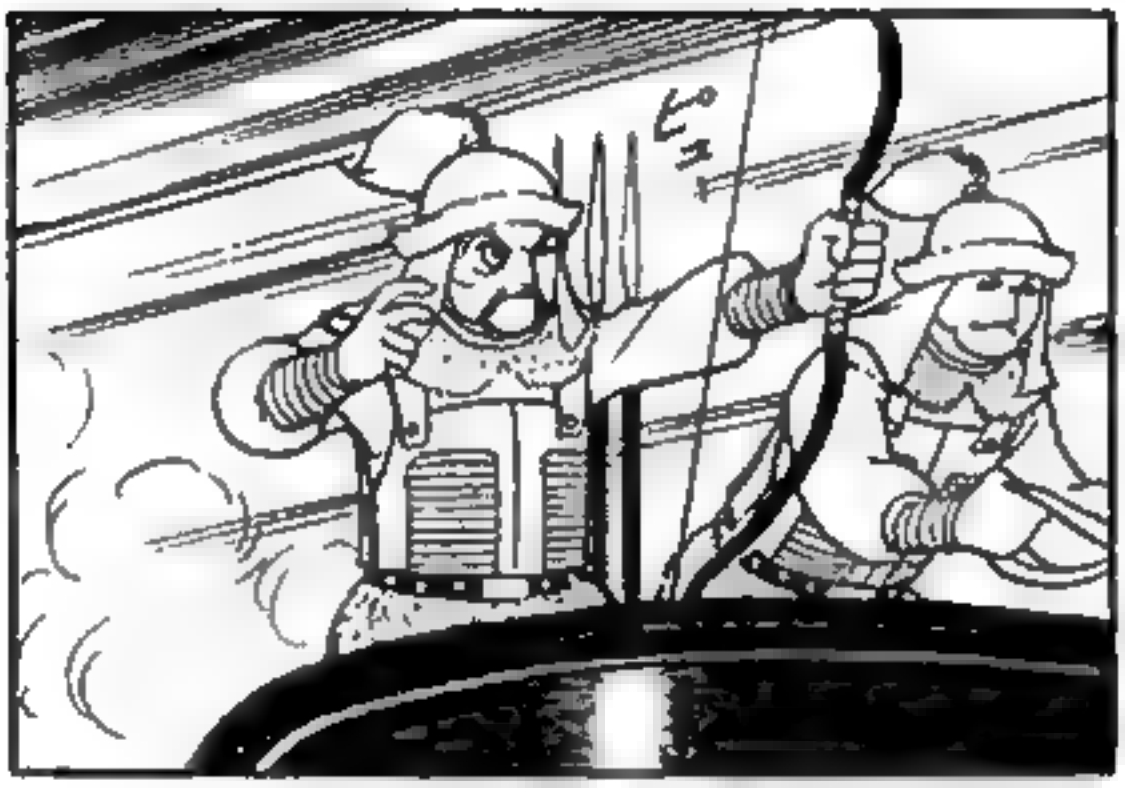
ALRIGHT.

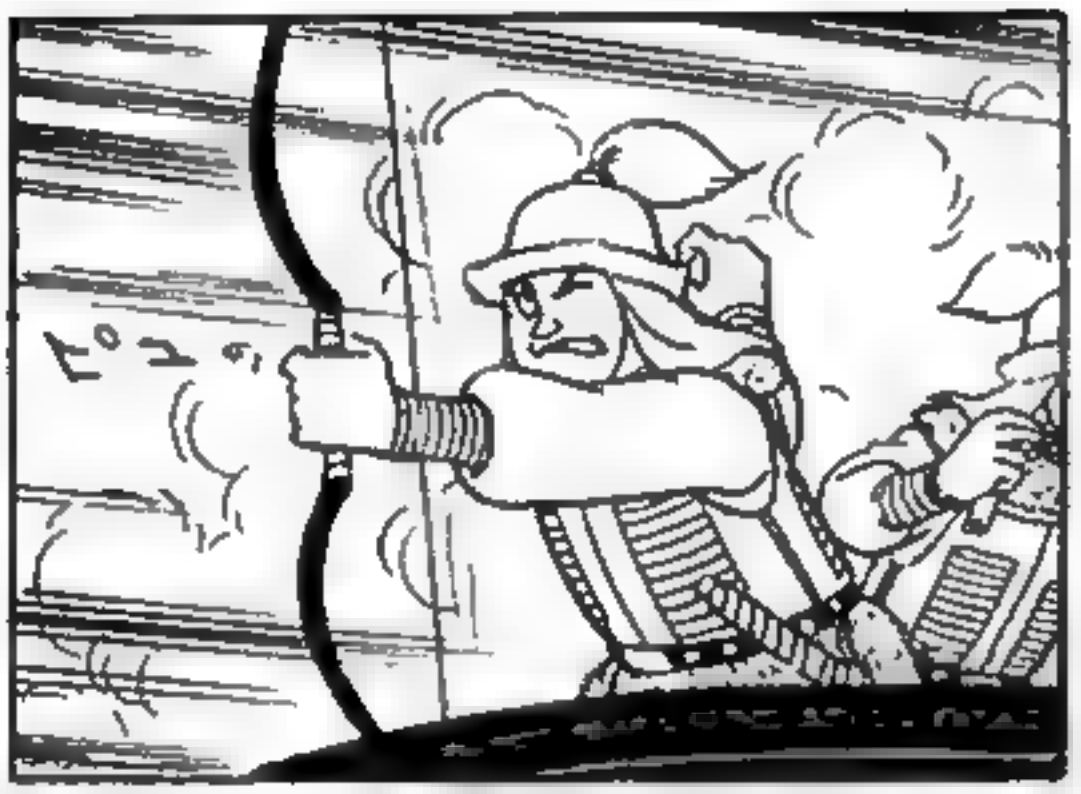
LET'S SEE WHAT THESE WESTERN QIANG TROOPS ARE MADE OF.


GIVE'EM HELL, BOYS!
HAHA...

CHARGE!



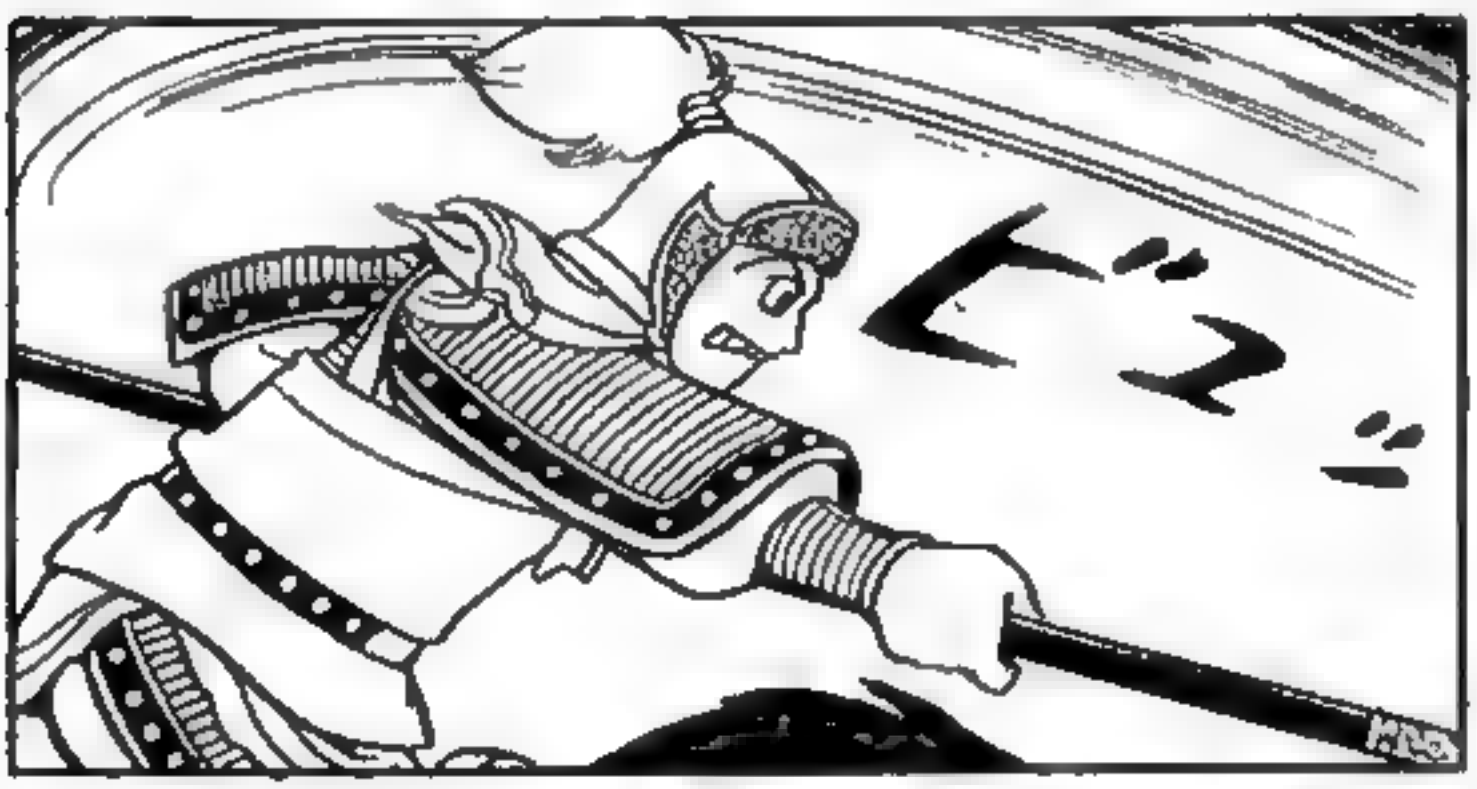




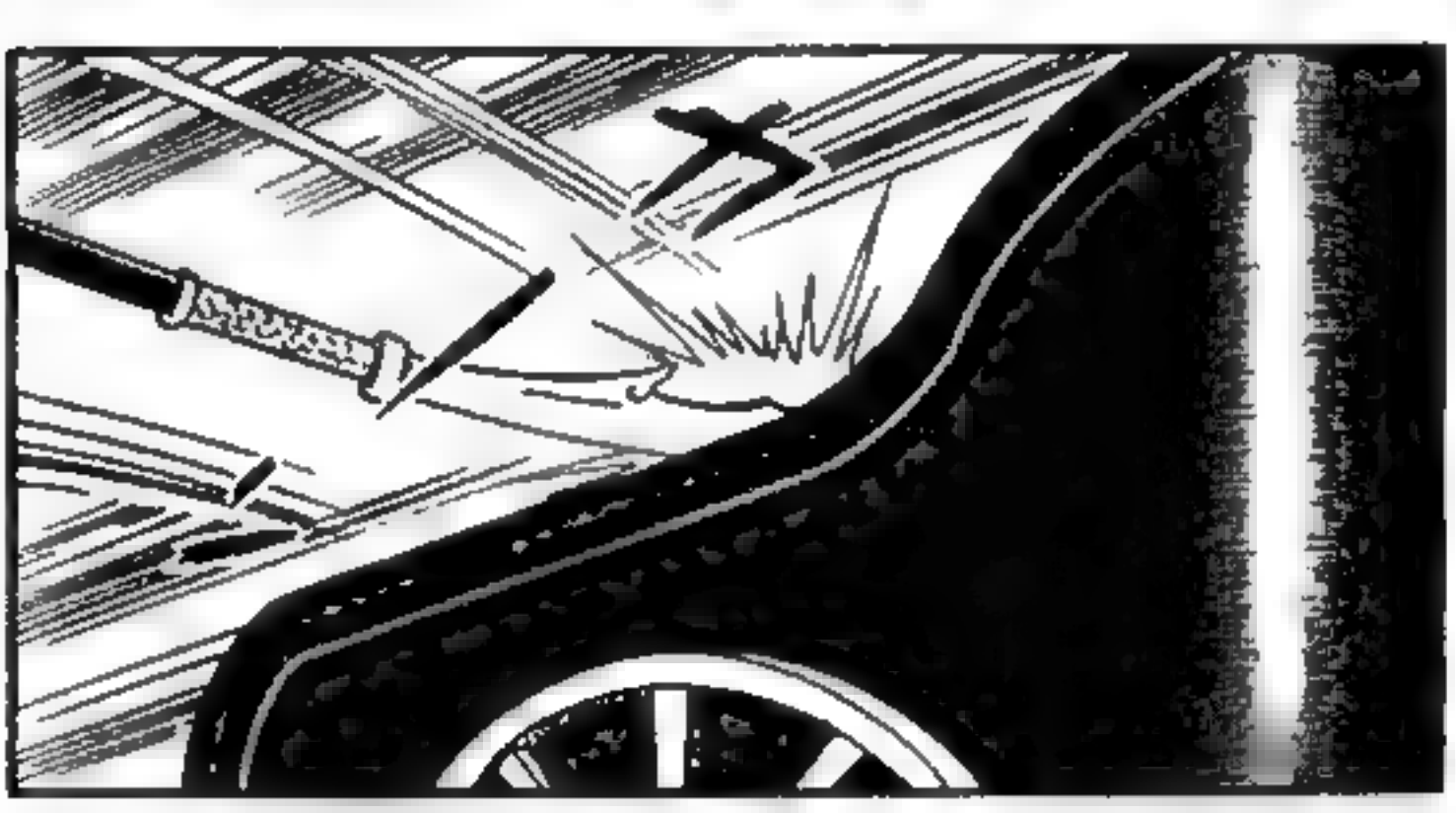

UGHH!

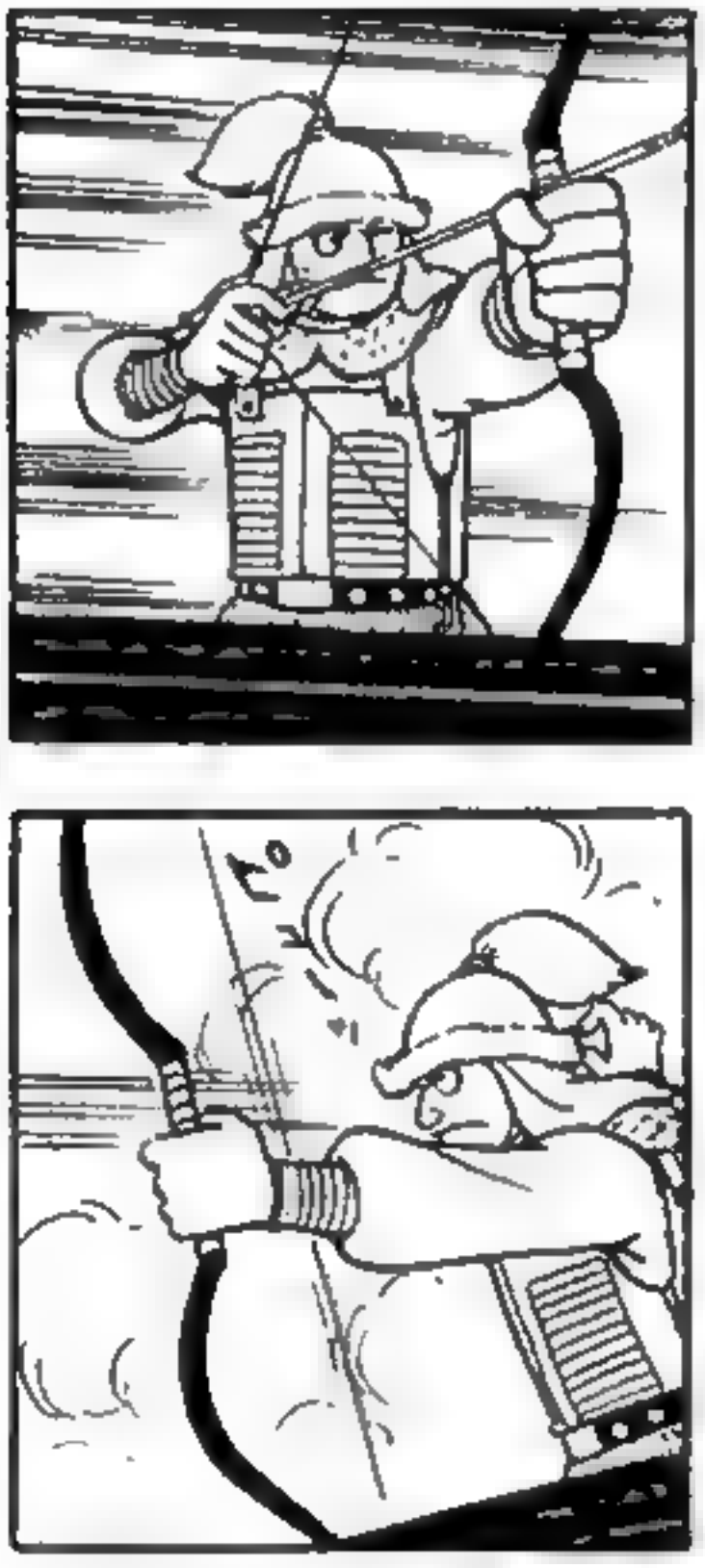

ACK!


AGHH!

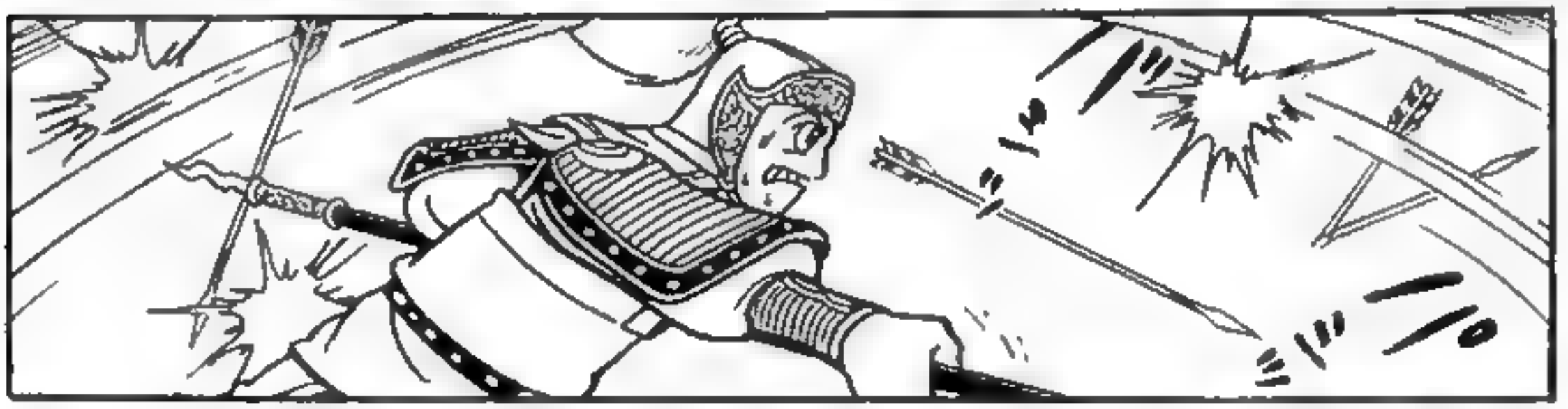


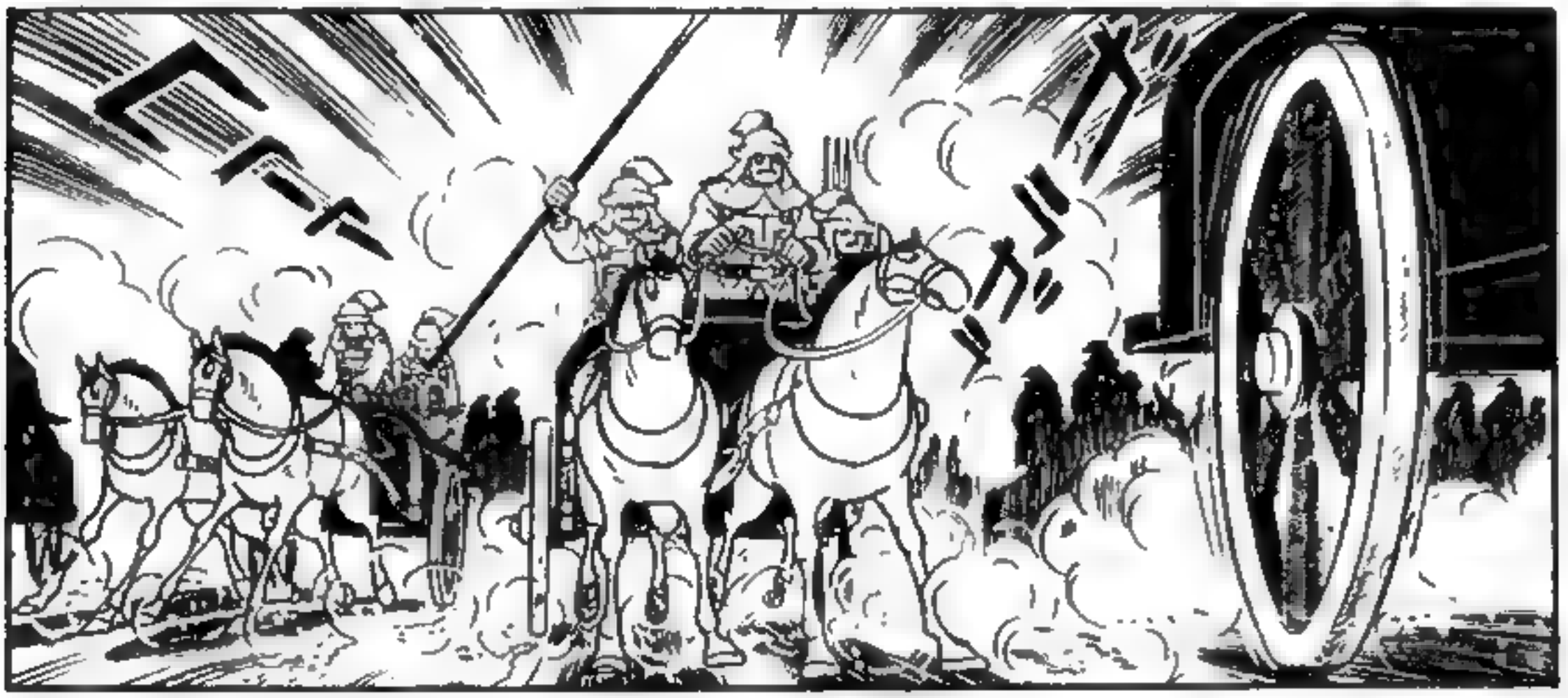

NGHH!



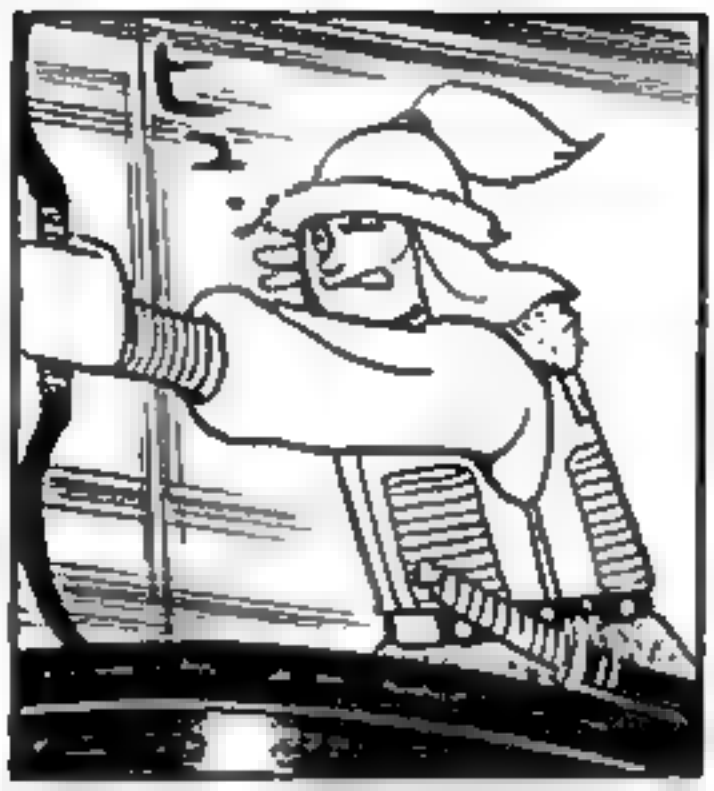


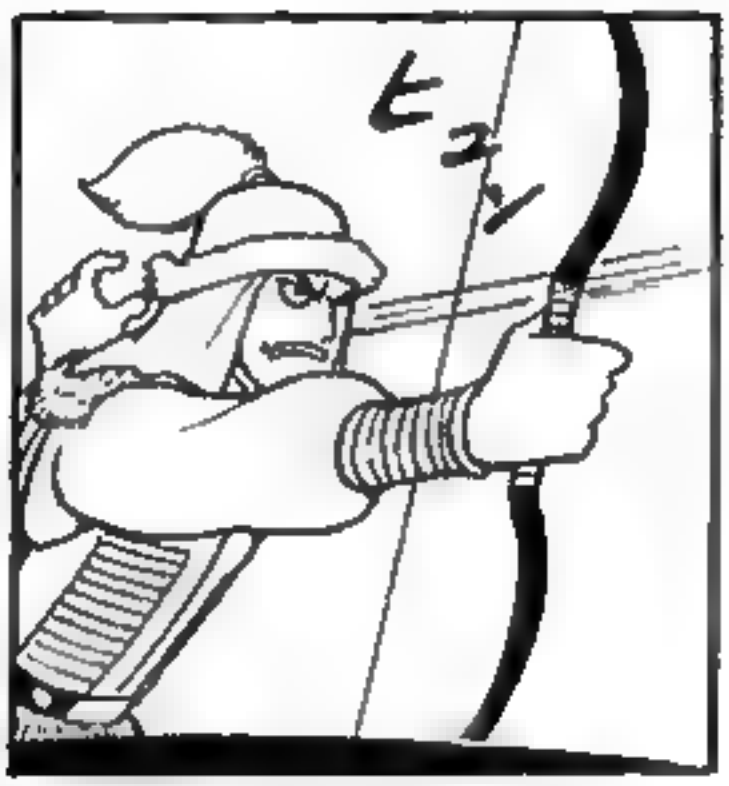








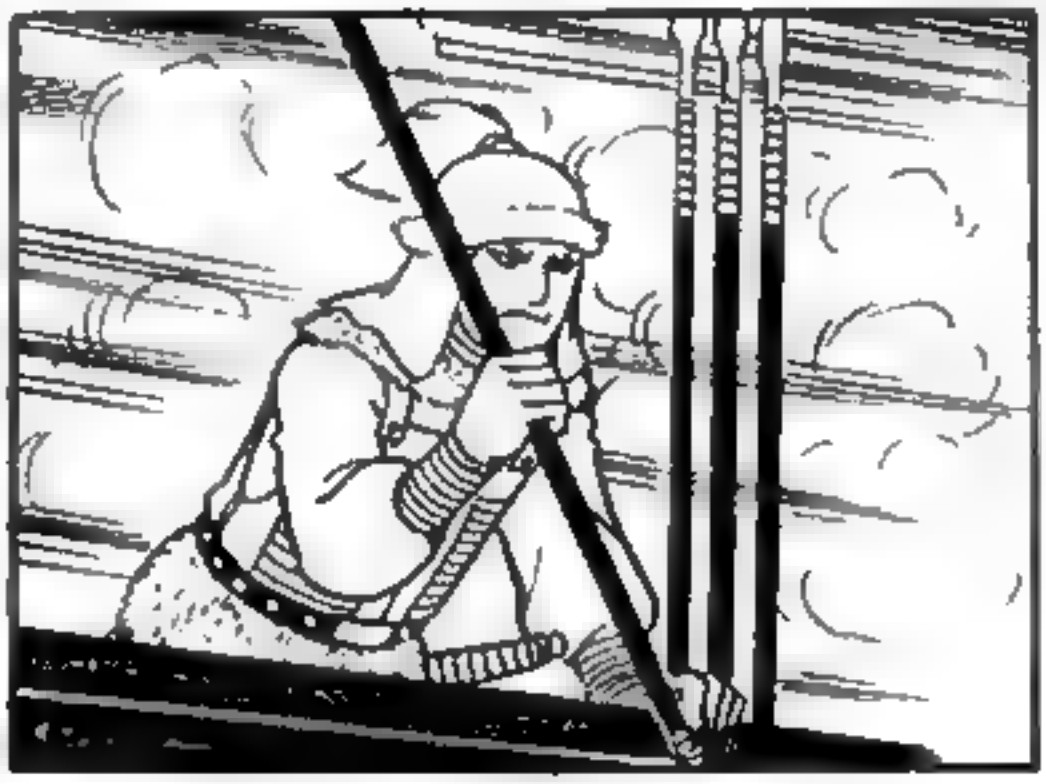







AGHH!






ALL WERE TRAMPLED BEFORE THE MIGHTY IRON CHARIOTS.


WHILE
OTHERS
WERE
DRIVEN
STRAIGHT
OVER


MANY WERE
KNOCKED
OVER BY THE
CHARIOTS.


THE FIRST
CLASH CLEARLY
DEMONSTRATED
THE FEARSOME
SHOCK
CAPABILITIES OF
THE IRON QIANG
CHARIOT.

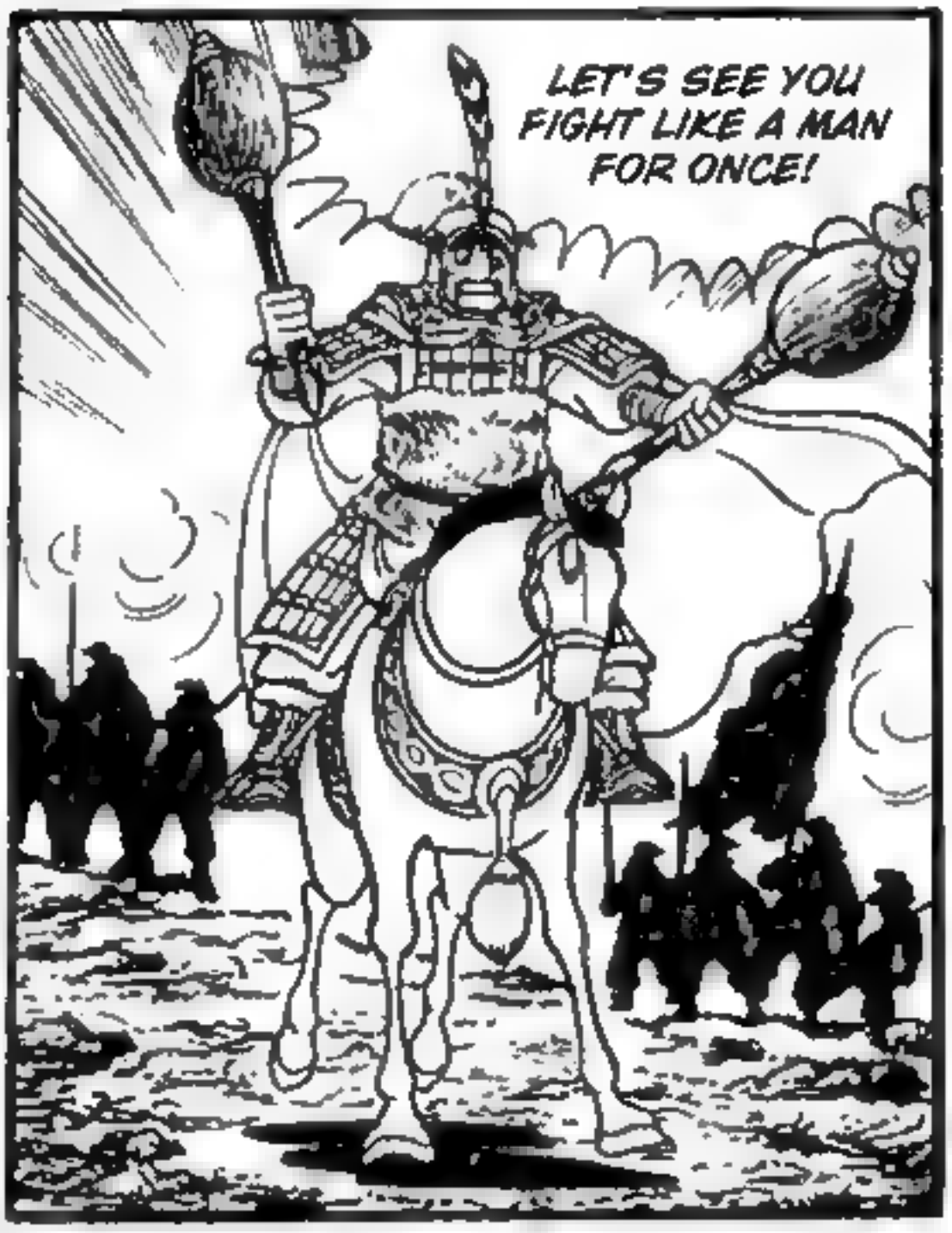

AND ZHANG BAO MANAGED TO AVOID BEING ENCIRCLED BY THE CHARIOTS,
MÁ DAI,
BUT GUAN XING WAS NOT SO LUCKY. HE WAS CHASED ALL THE WAY DOWN TO A VALLEY

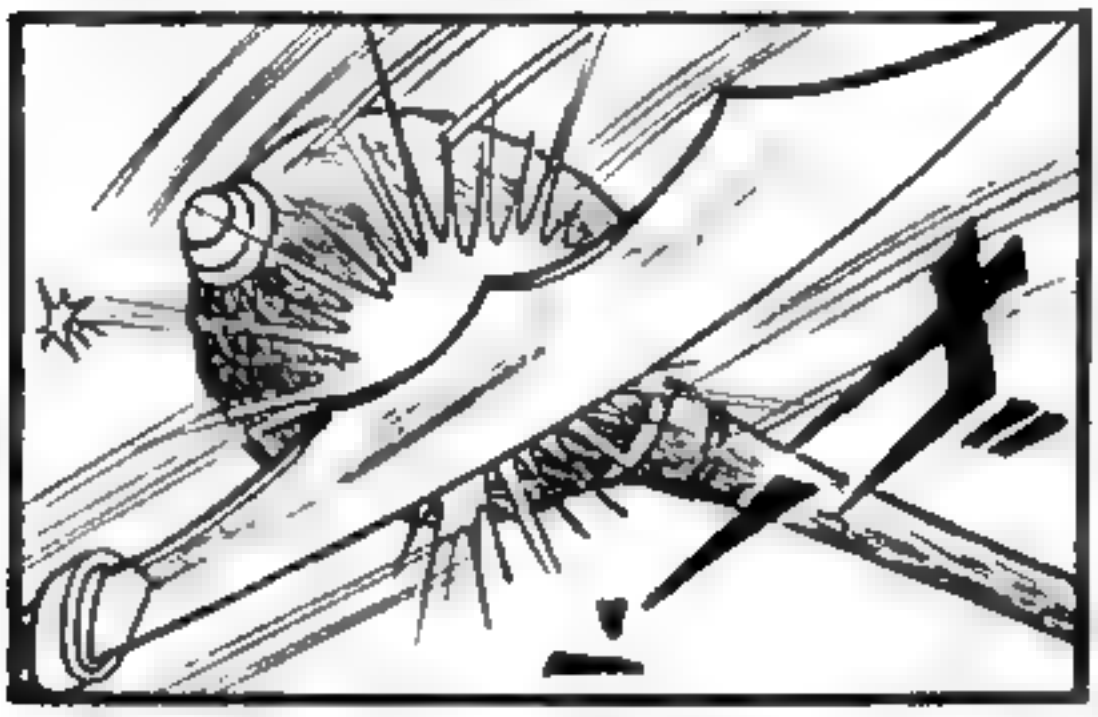
YOU CAN ESCAPE NO FARTHER, LITTLE BOY!

AGHH!

NGH...

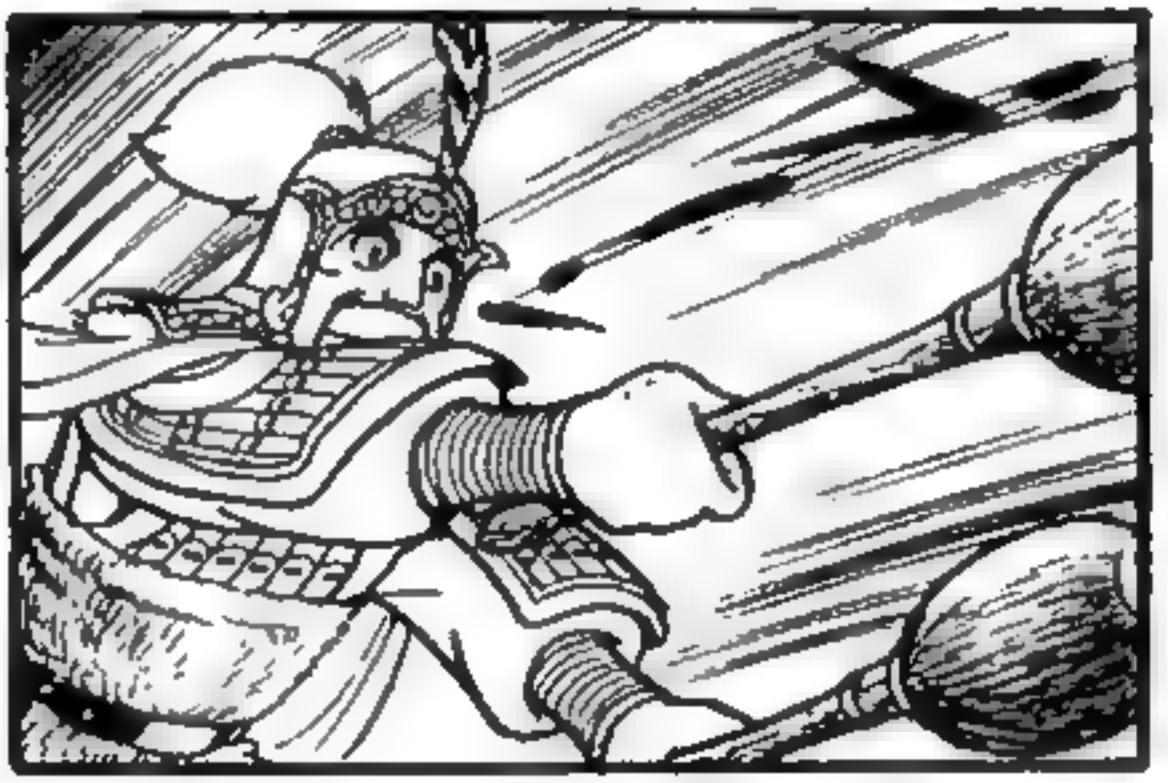
I, MARSHAL YUE JI, WILL FINISH YOU OFF!

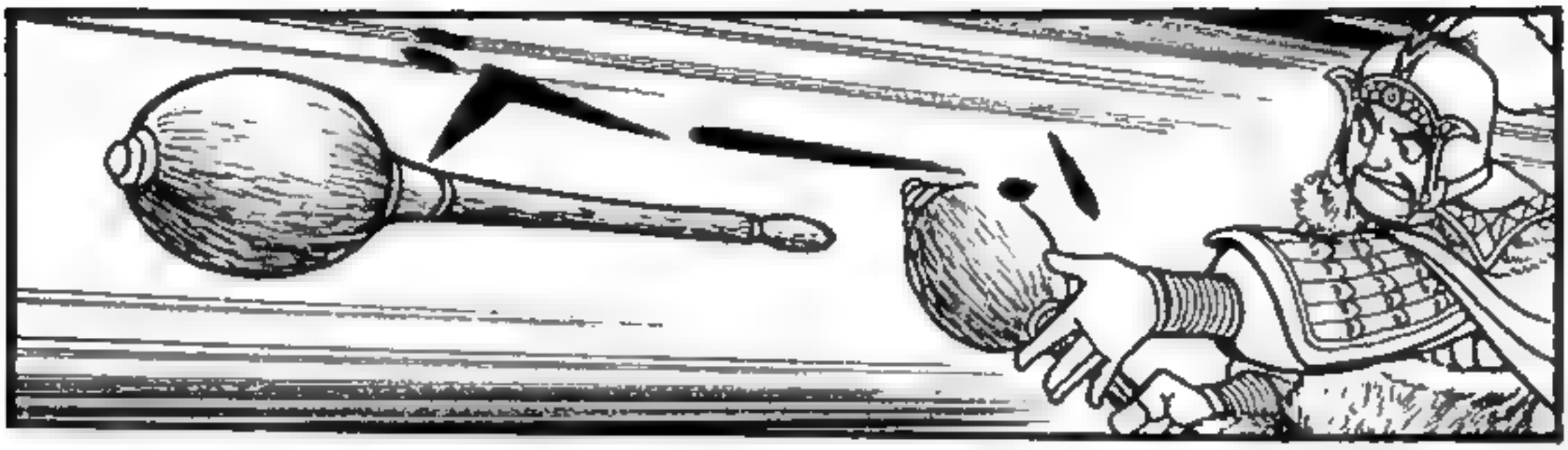

LET'S SEE YOU FIGHT LIKE A MAN FOR ONCE!



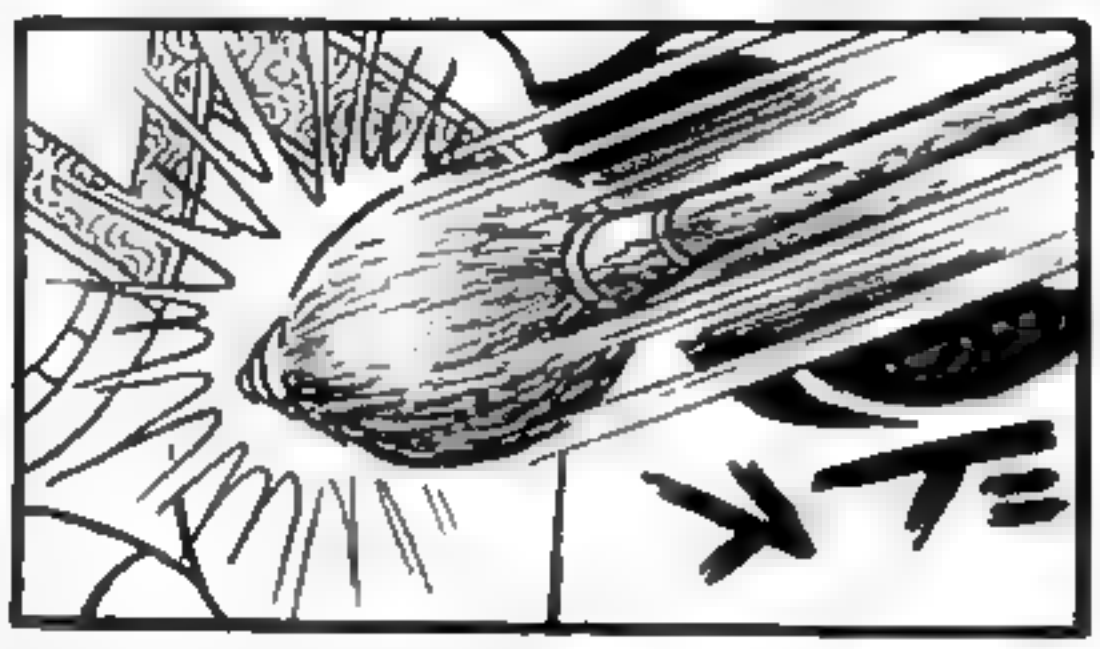










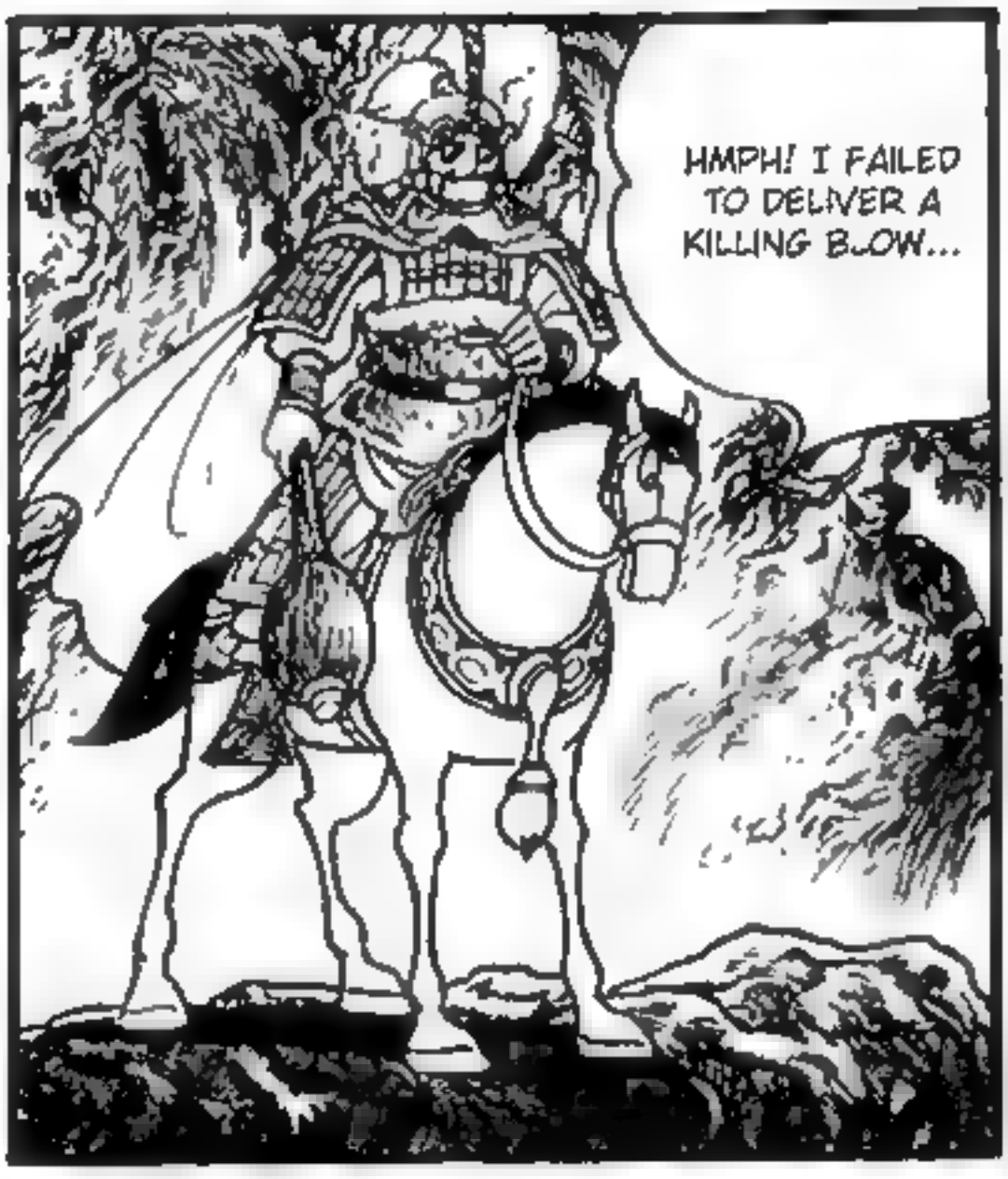





AGHHHH!




LET US WITHDRAW FOR TODAY, MEN!


HMPH! I FAILED TO DELIVER A KILLING BLOW...



蜀

HAS GUAN XING STILL NOT RETURNED?

I SEE...

WE'VE SUSTAINED MANY CASUALTIES TODAY. ALMOST HALF OF OUR TROOPS NOW HAVE AN INJURY OF SOME SORT.

NO...

.....

COULD HE HAVE PERHAPS FALLEN IN BATTLE...?

WHO'S THERE!?

?

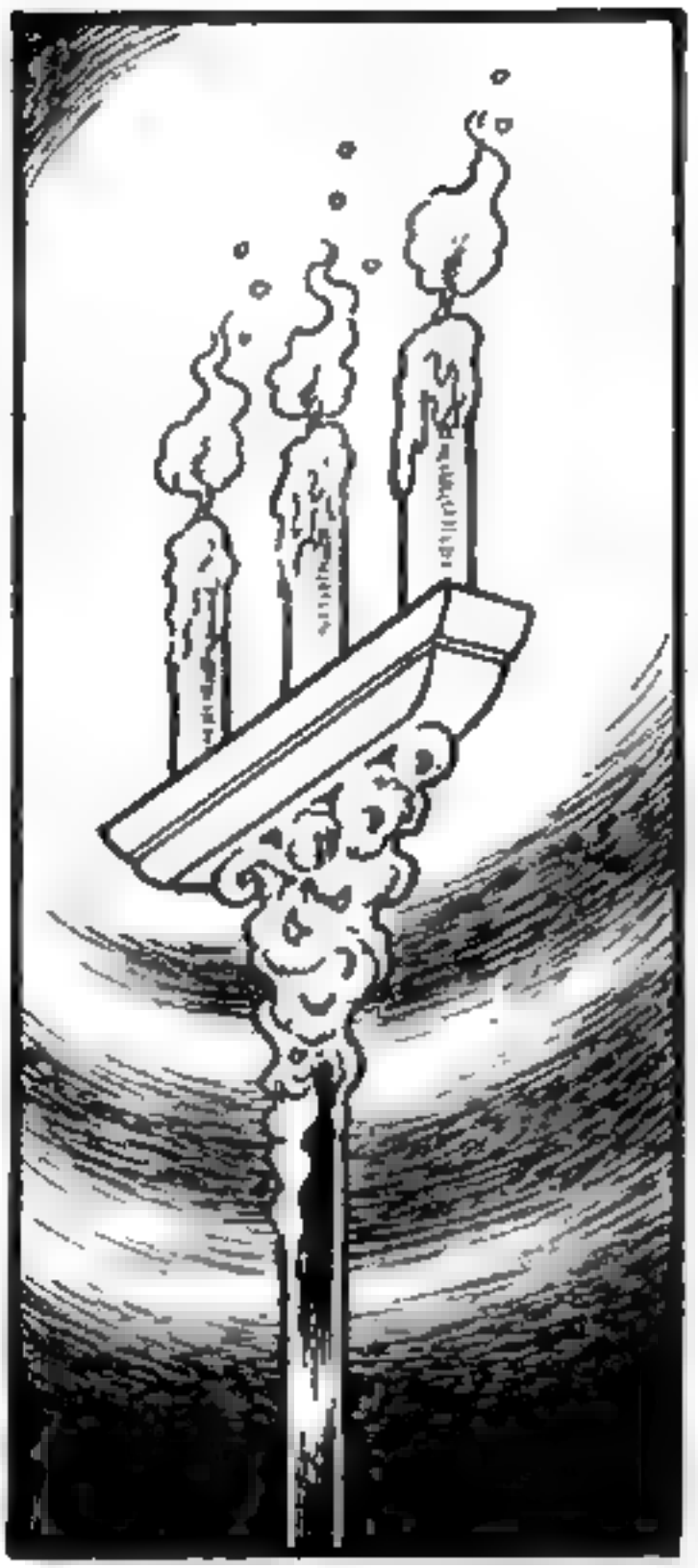
GUAN XING!

YOU'RE ALIVE!

BRING A DOCTOR AT ONCE!

I MANAGED TO ESCAPE BY FALLING INTO A RIVER.






NOTHING SERIOUS, REALLY. I ONLY FELL INTO A RIVER.
HOW ARE YOUR WOUNDS?

YES, IF WE DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER TO THEM, WE'LL BE TROUNCED AGAIN.

MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DEAL WITH THOSE CHARIOTS?

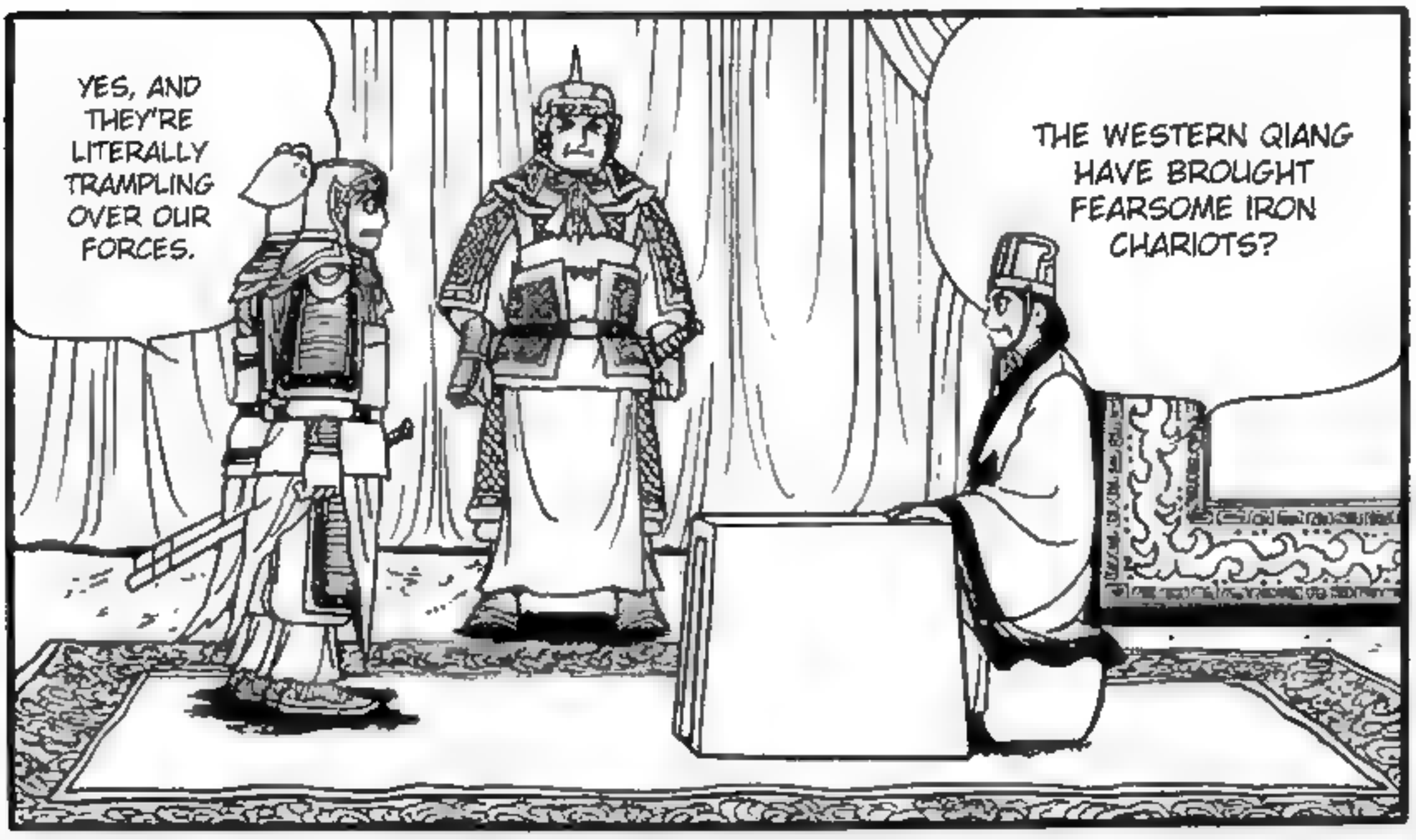
WILL YOU GO BACK TO OUR MAIN CAMPS AND ASK THE CHANCELLOR TO LEND US HIS WISDOM?

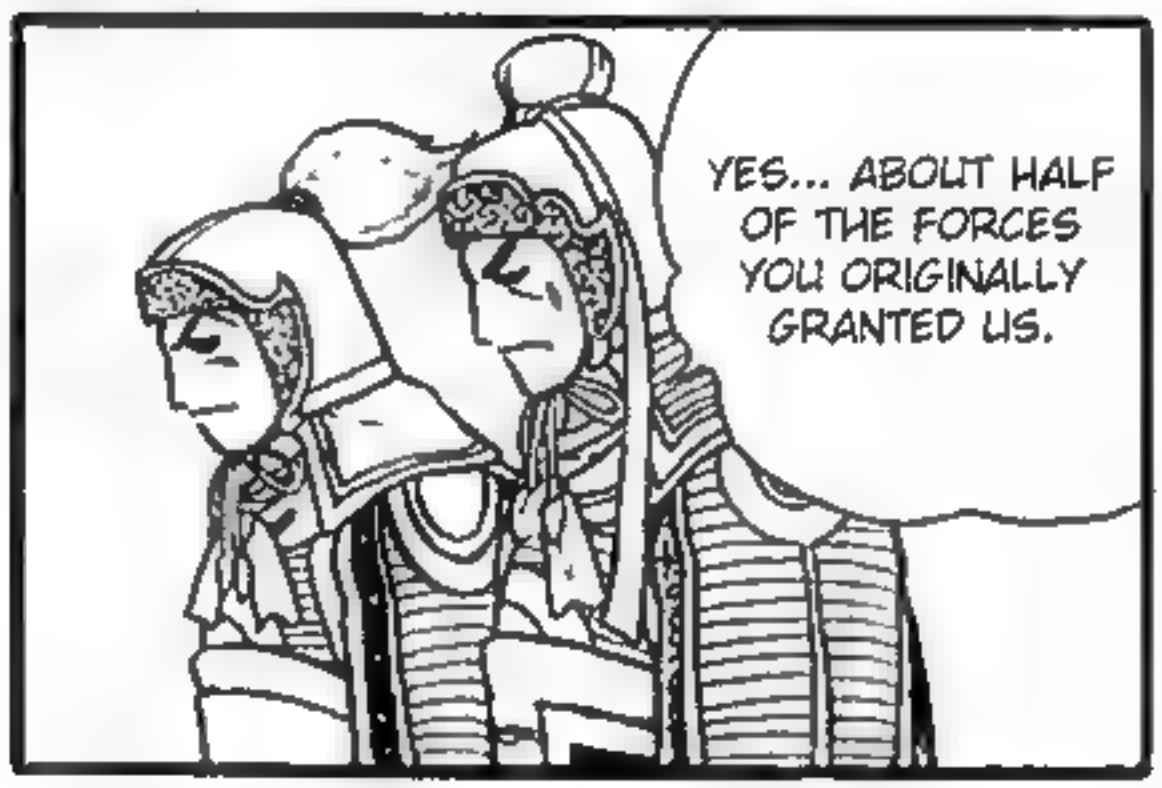
I WILL SET UP A NEW CAMP IN THE HILLS WHERE IT'LL BE HARDER FOR THE ENEMIES TO USE THEIR CHARIOTS. I RECKON I CAN HOLD THEM OFF FOR A MONTH JUST FINE BY FIGHTING ONLY DEFENSIVELY.

BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?


WE SHOULD ASK THE CHANCELLOR FOR ADVICE ON HOW TO OVERCOME THEIR UNFAMILIAR WAYS OF WAR.
YES.
HMM... YOU'RE RIGHT, WE NEED ONE WAY OR ANOTHER TO BEAT THOSE IRON CHARIOTS.
DEFEATED GUAN XING AND ZHANG BAO QUICKLY HEADED BACK TO KONGMING FOR HELP

# BATTLE ON SNOWY PLAINS











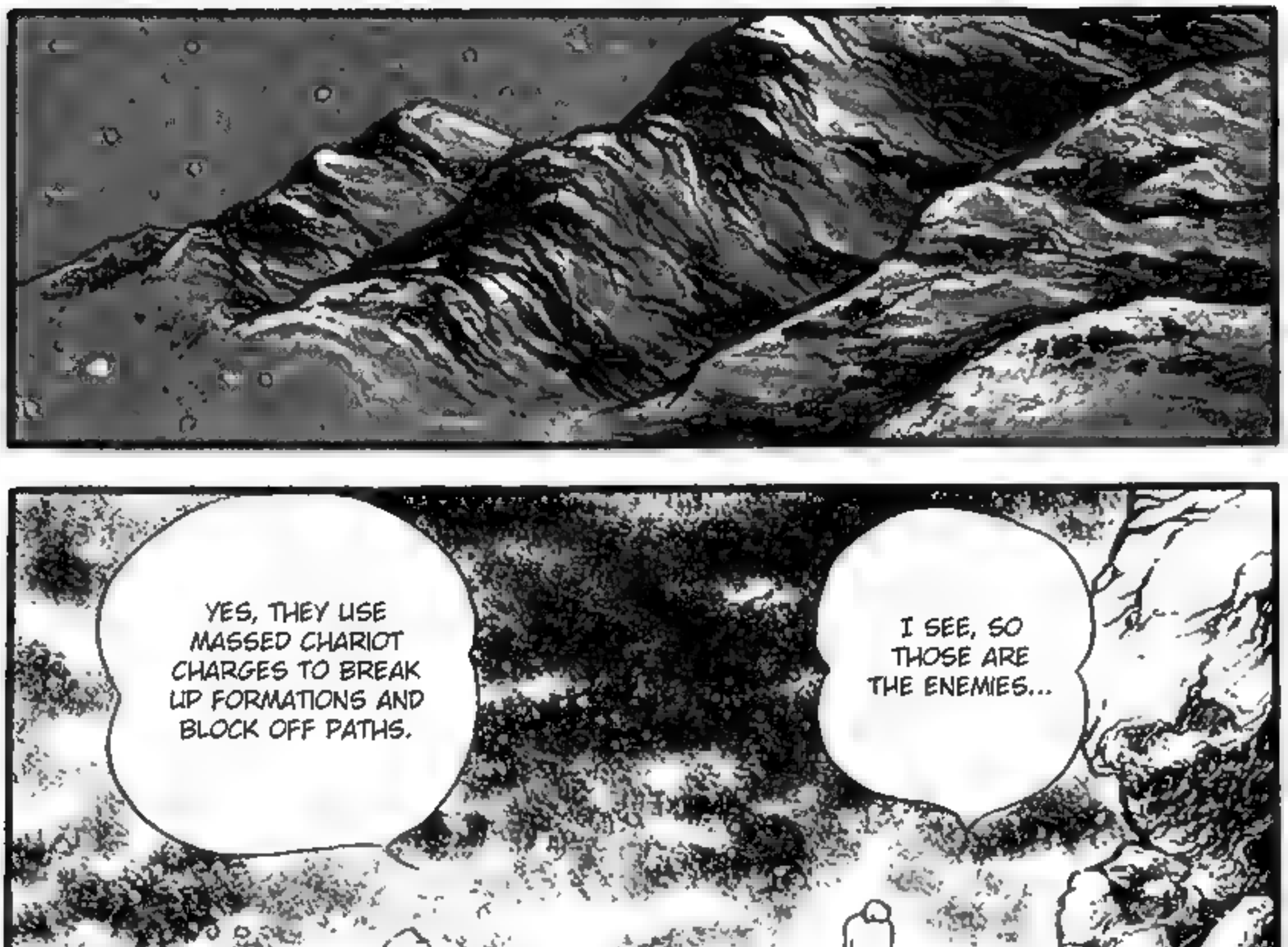

I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU MEN.

WHAT ABOUT OUR POSITION HERE, SIR?

YES, SIR.

CAO ZHEN'S FORCES HAVE SUFFERED A STINGING BLOW AND WILL BE HESITANT TO MAKE THE NEXT MOVE. AS LONG AS YOU DON'T PRESSURE HIM, HE WILL LIKELY STAND BY QUIETLY FOR THE TIME BEING.

WITH 30 000 TROOPS, KONGMING SET OUT FOR XIPING PASS, ACCOMPANIED BY JIANG WEI, ZHANG YI, GUAN XING, AND ZHANG BAO


YES, THEY USE MASSED CHARIOT CHARGES TO BREAK UP FORMATIONS AND BLOCK OFF PATHS.
I SEE, SO THOSE ARE THE ENEMIES...

THE ENEMIES HAVE BRAWN BUT NOT BRAINS.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, JIANG WEI?

*HMM, WITH ALL THOSE CHARIOTS, THEY CERTAINLY ARE A FEARSOME FORCE... BUT TAKE AWAY THEIR CHARIOTS AND WILL THEY BE OF ANY THREAT...?*

*JIANG WEI MUST BE THINKING THE SAME TACTIC AS I AM...*

IF THE SKIES ARE WILLING, THEN YOU WILL BE ABLE TO DEFEAT THEM WITH NO TROUBLE AT ALL, CHANCELLOR.

YES, SIR.

BAIT THE ENEMIES INTO ATTACKING AND RETREAT UPON SEEING THE RED FLAG WAVE.

YES, SIR.

YES.

GUAN XING AND ZHANG BAO. YOU WILL LEAD THE FLANKING WINGS. I'LL EXPLAIN THE DETAILS ONCE WE RETURN TO CAMP.

GENERAL YUE JI! ENEMY ATTACK ALERT!

HM?

AN ENEMY ATTACK?

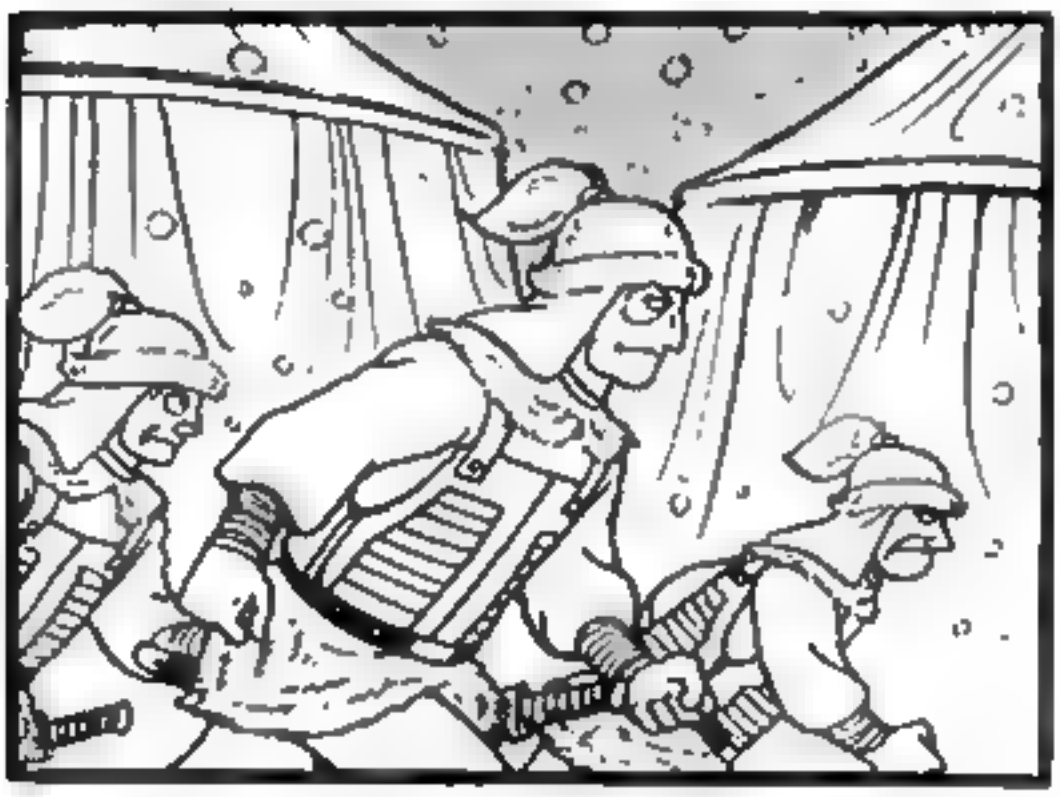
AHHH!

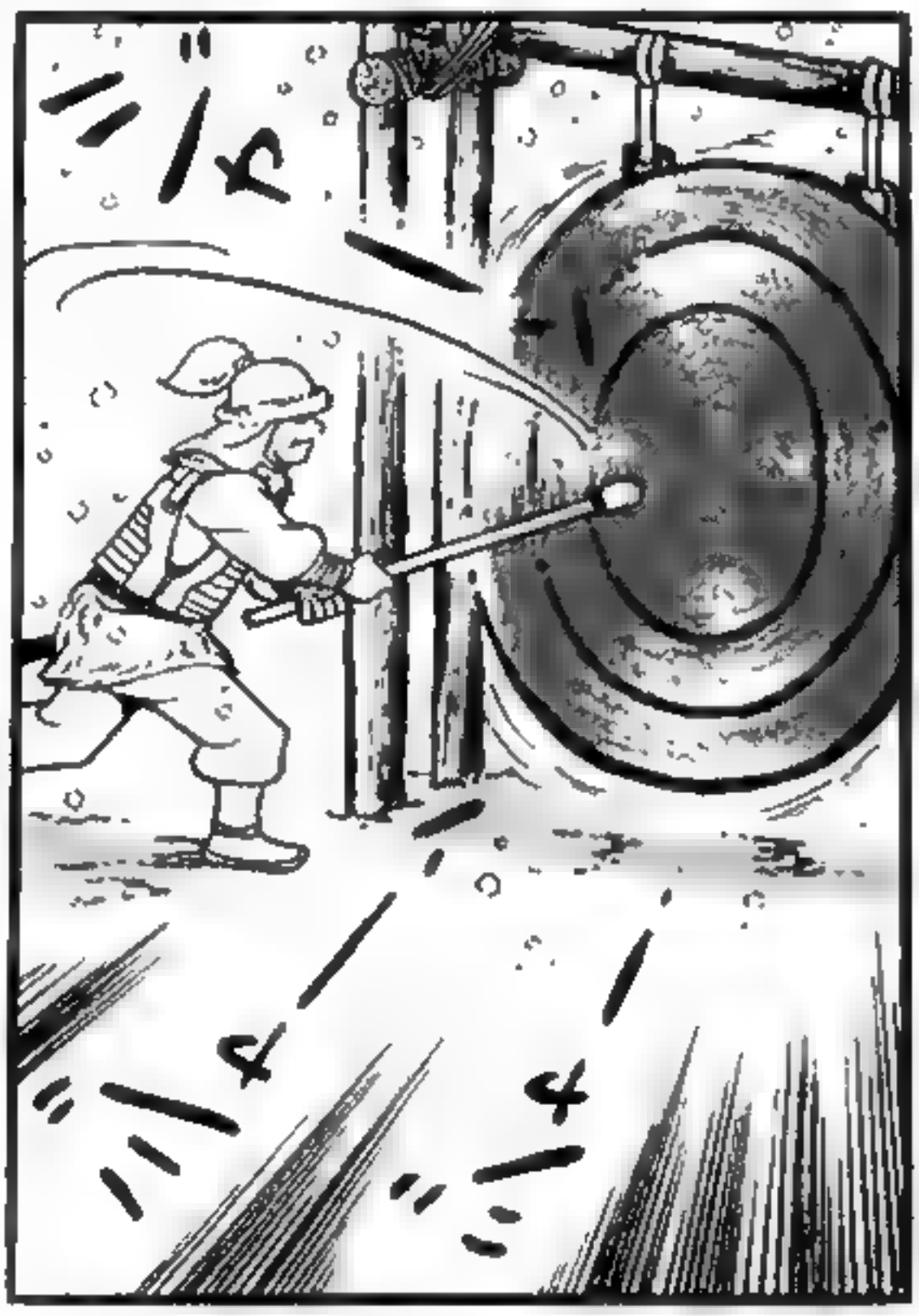


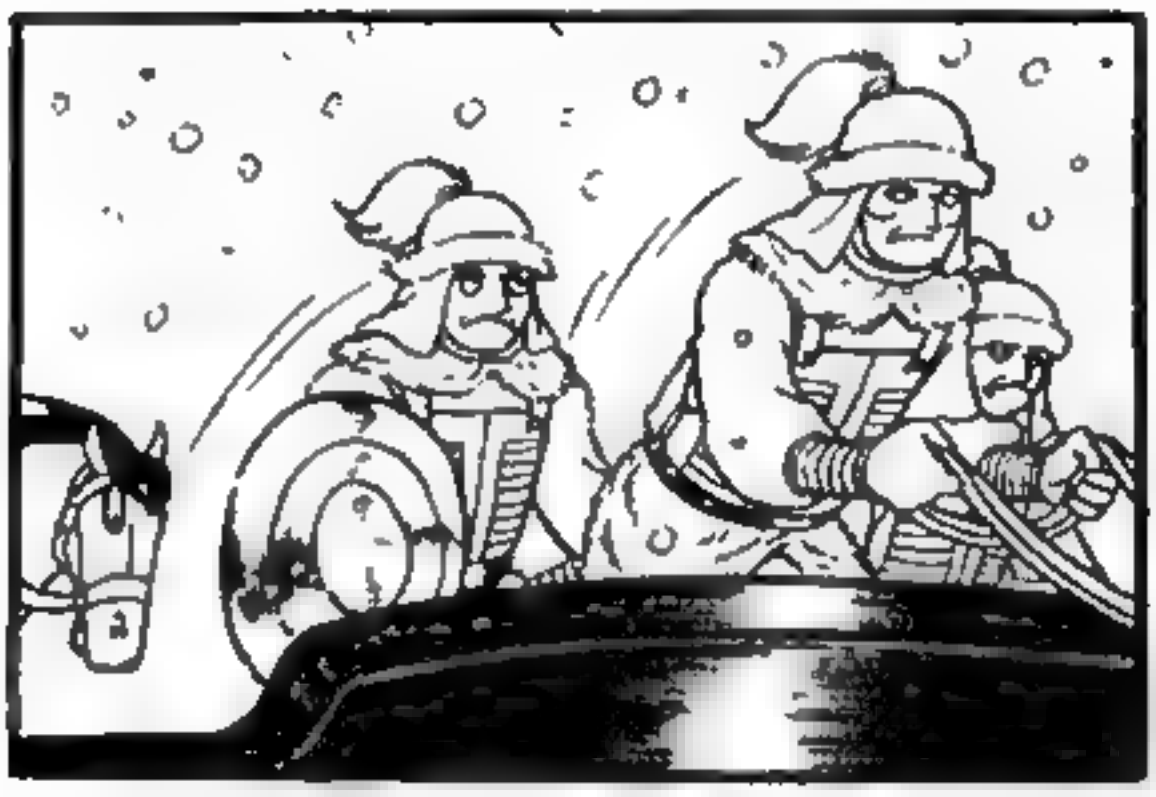

YES, SIR!
WE WILL GO OUT AND ATTACK TOO! SEND THE SIGNAL!


FINALLY THEY'VE REGROWN THEIR BALLS.





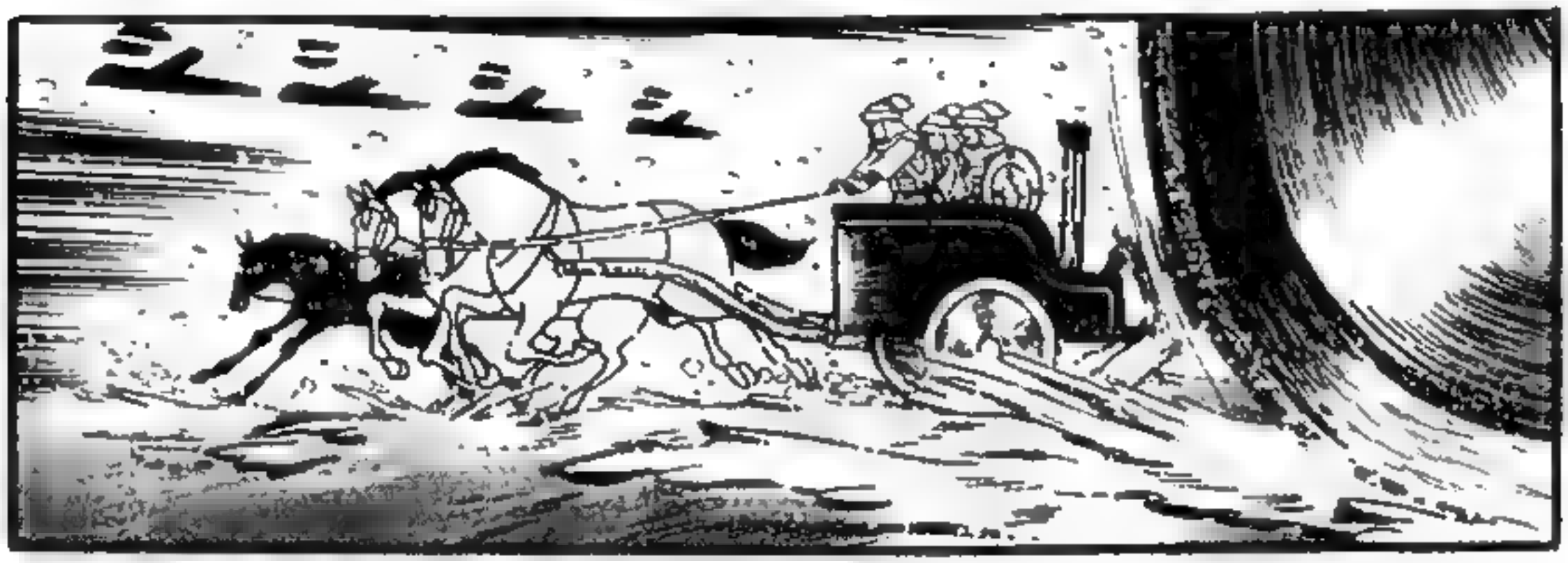




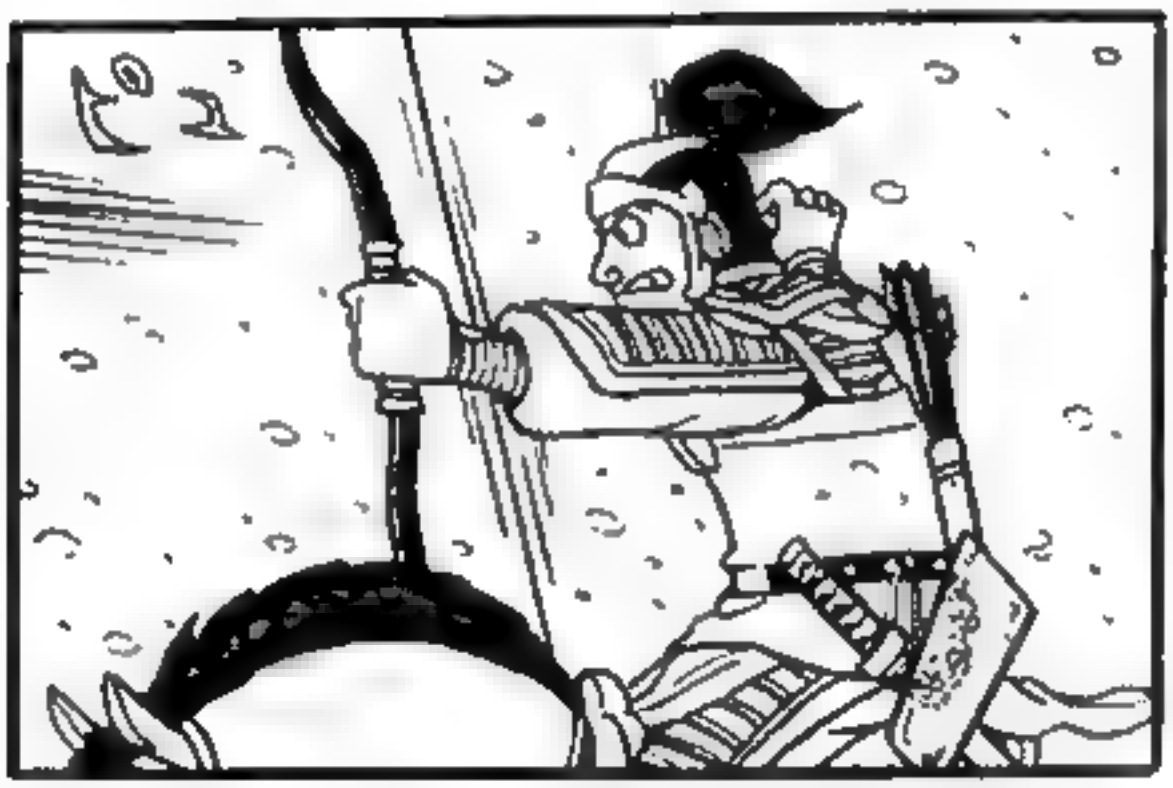



CHAAARGEEE!

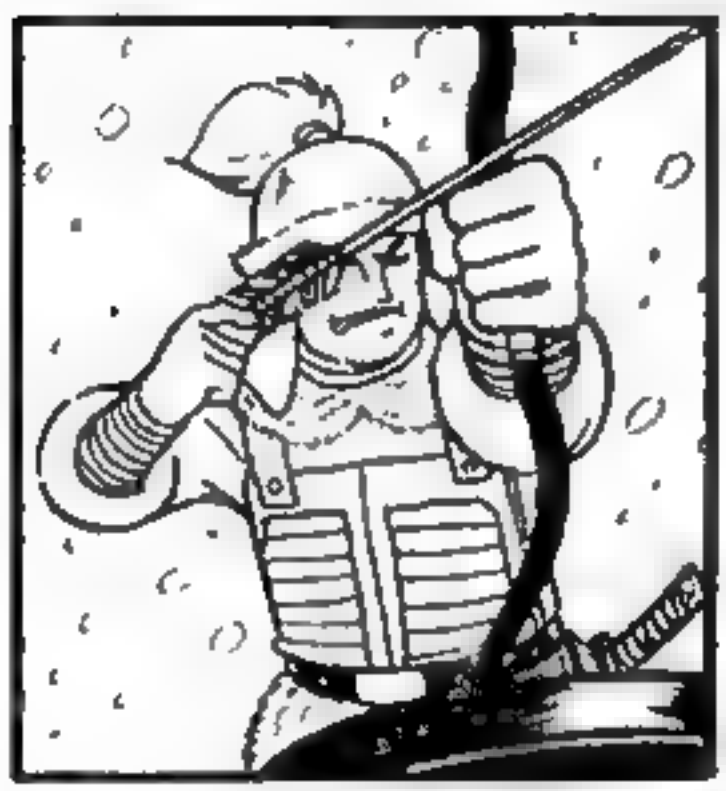

LET'S FINISH THEM OFF FOR GOOD TODAY!




YES, SIR.
HERE THEY COME. REMEMBER THE PLAN. WE RETREAT ONCE THE RED FLAG WAVES.
NOW!

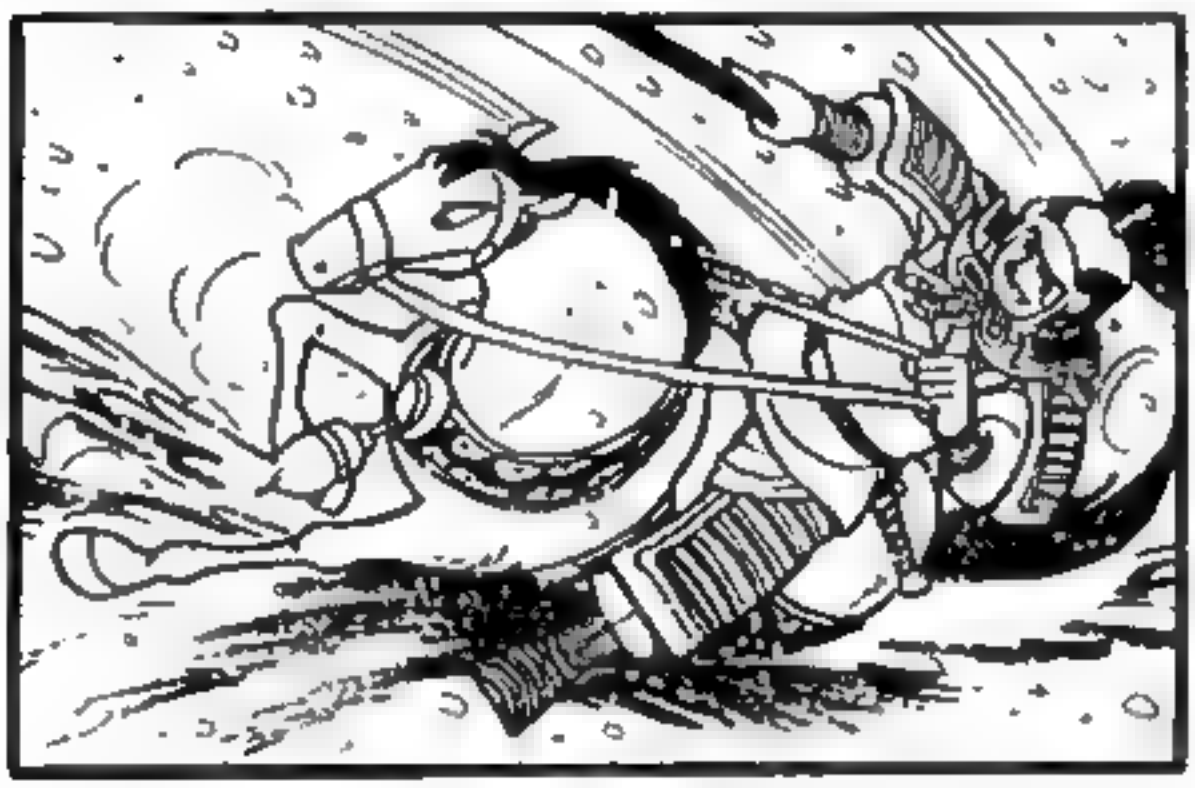















PLEASE DO NOT CHARGE IN SO DEEP, SIR!

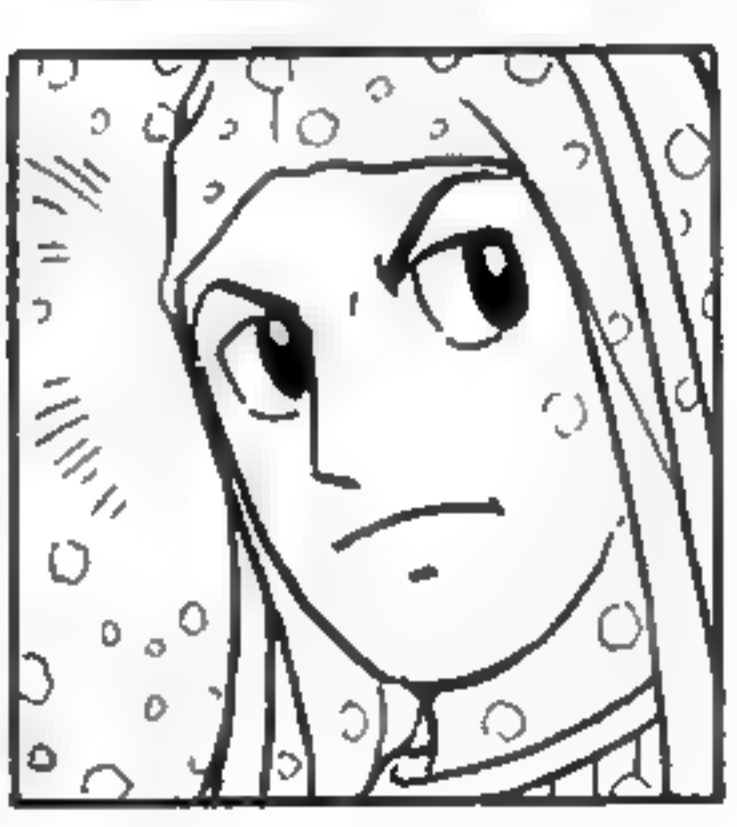


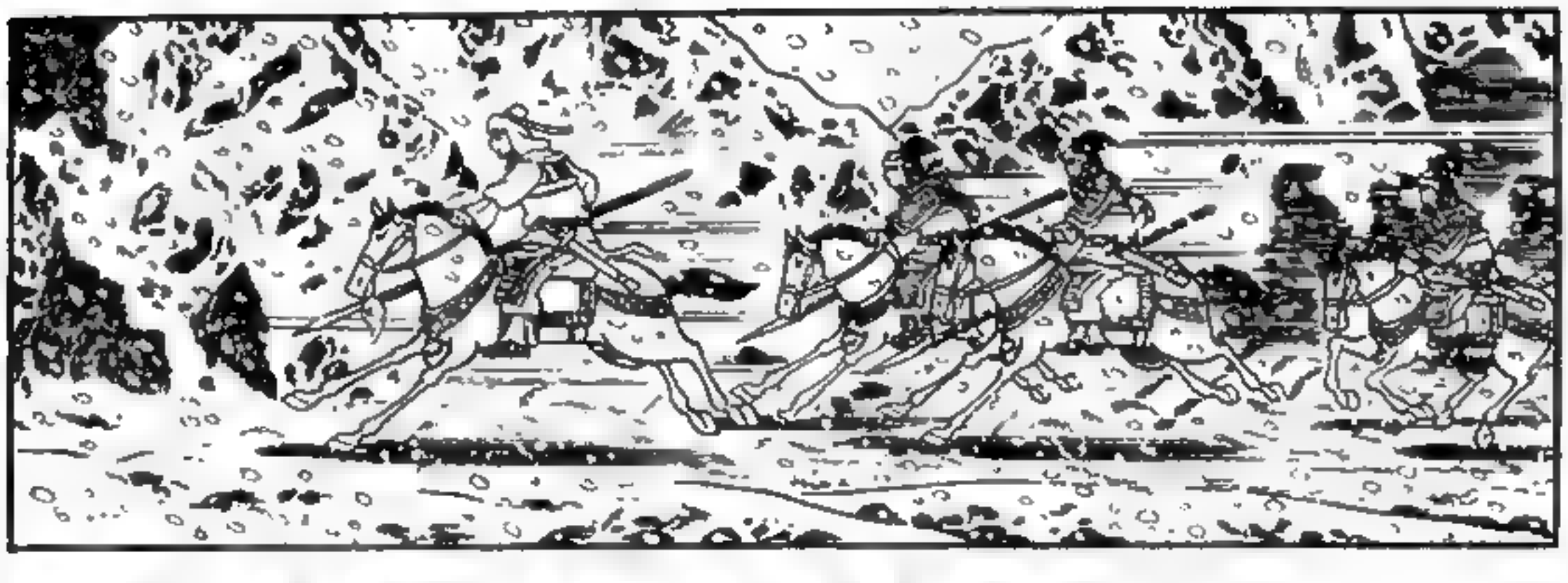

WE CAN'T BAIT THEM UNLESS WE DO THIS MUCH!


RETREAT!




IT'S THE SIGNAL, SIR!

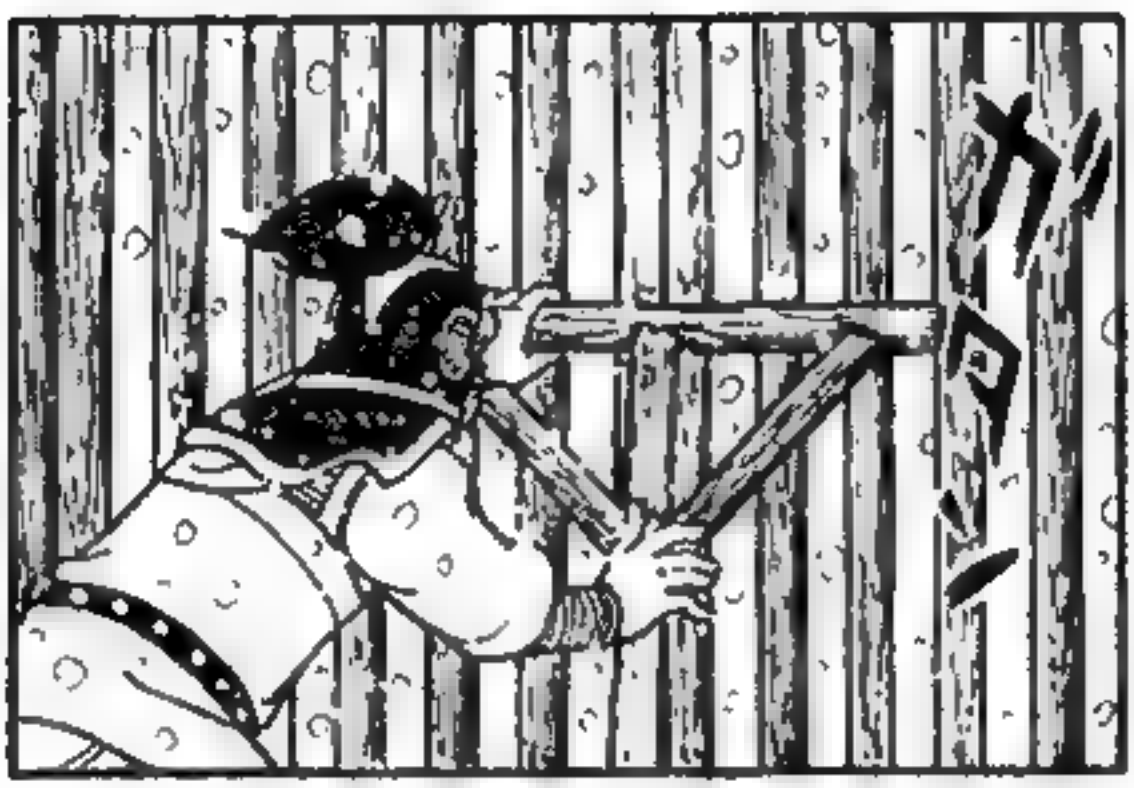







THE ENEMIES HAVE BEGUN TO FLEE! GIVE CHASE! DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE!

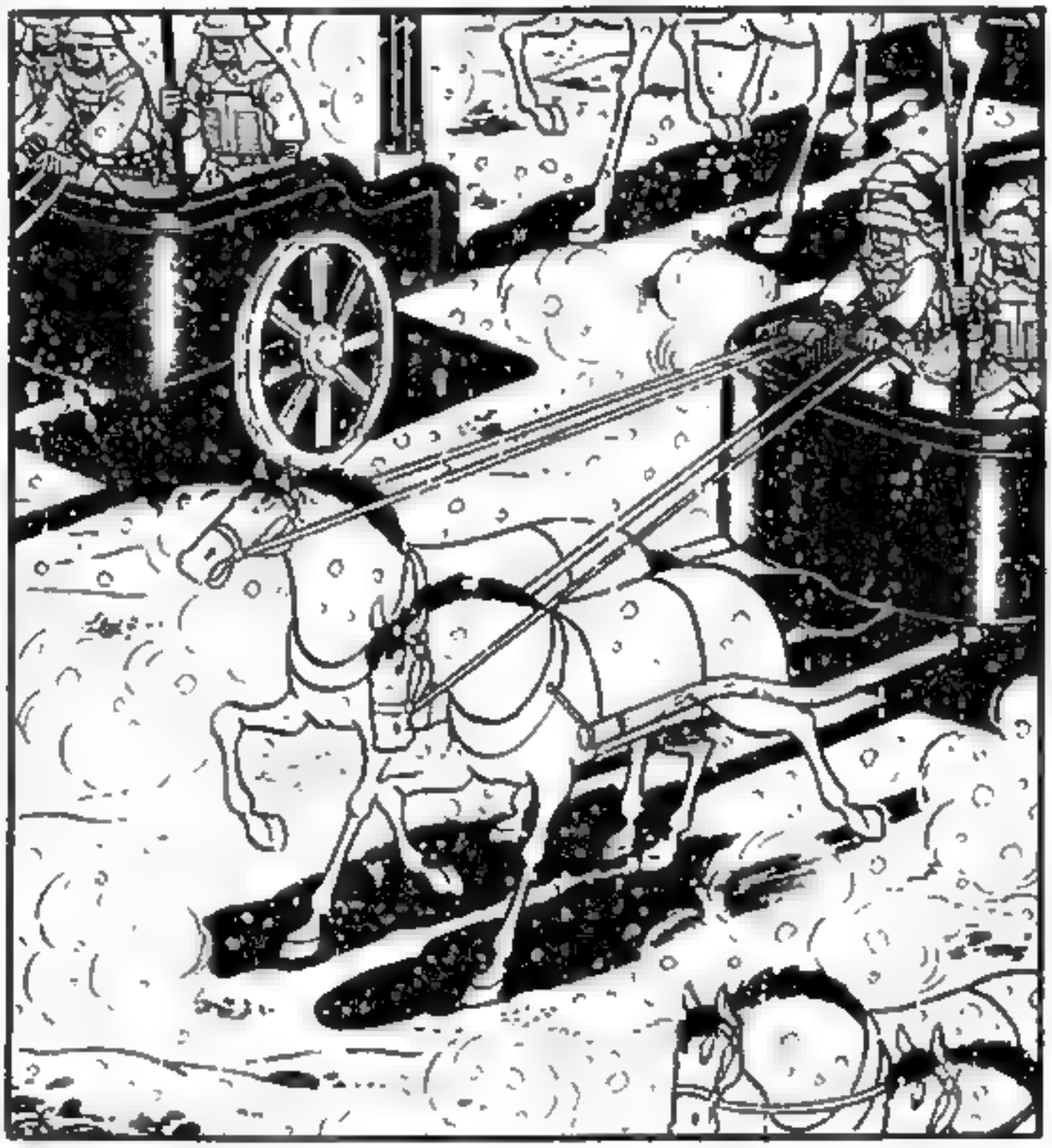



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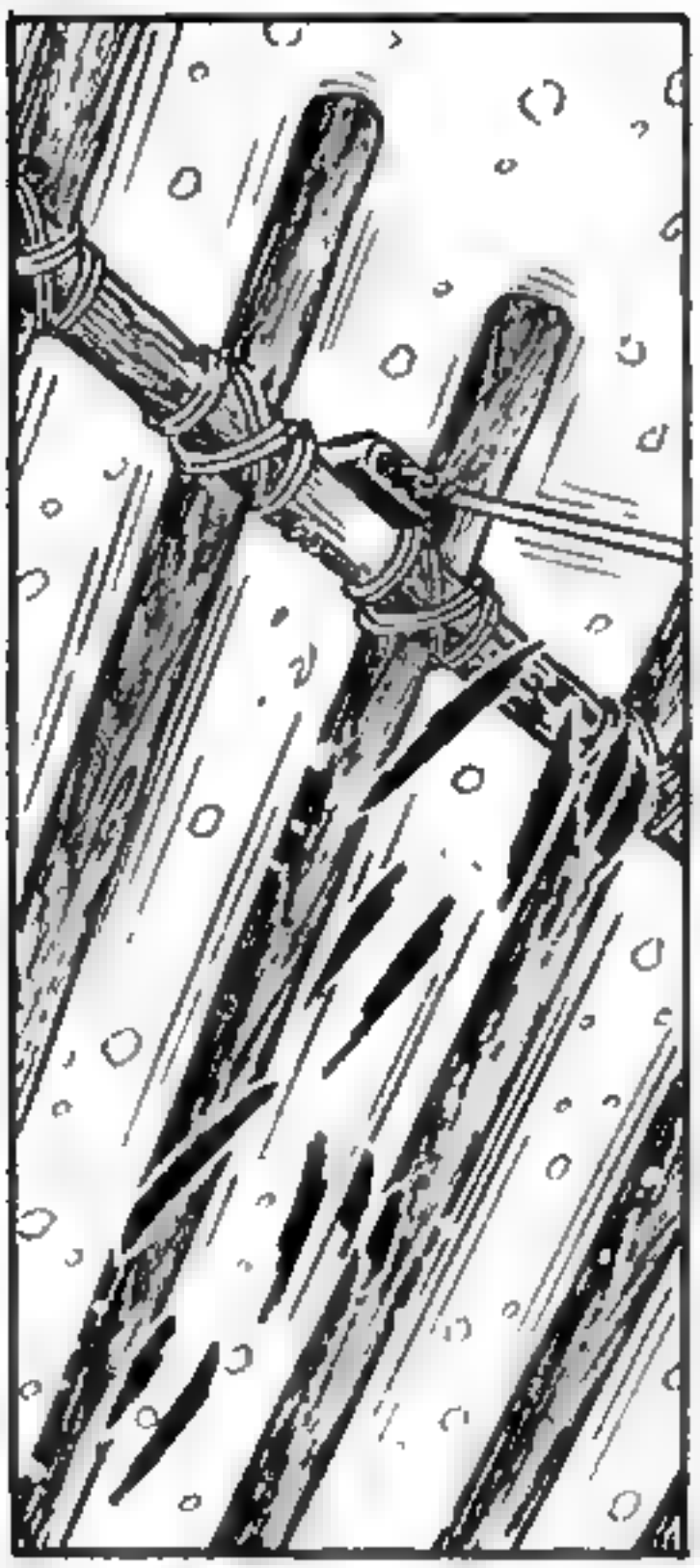


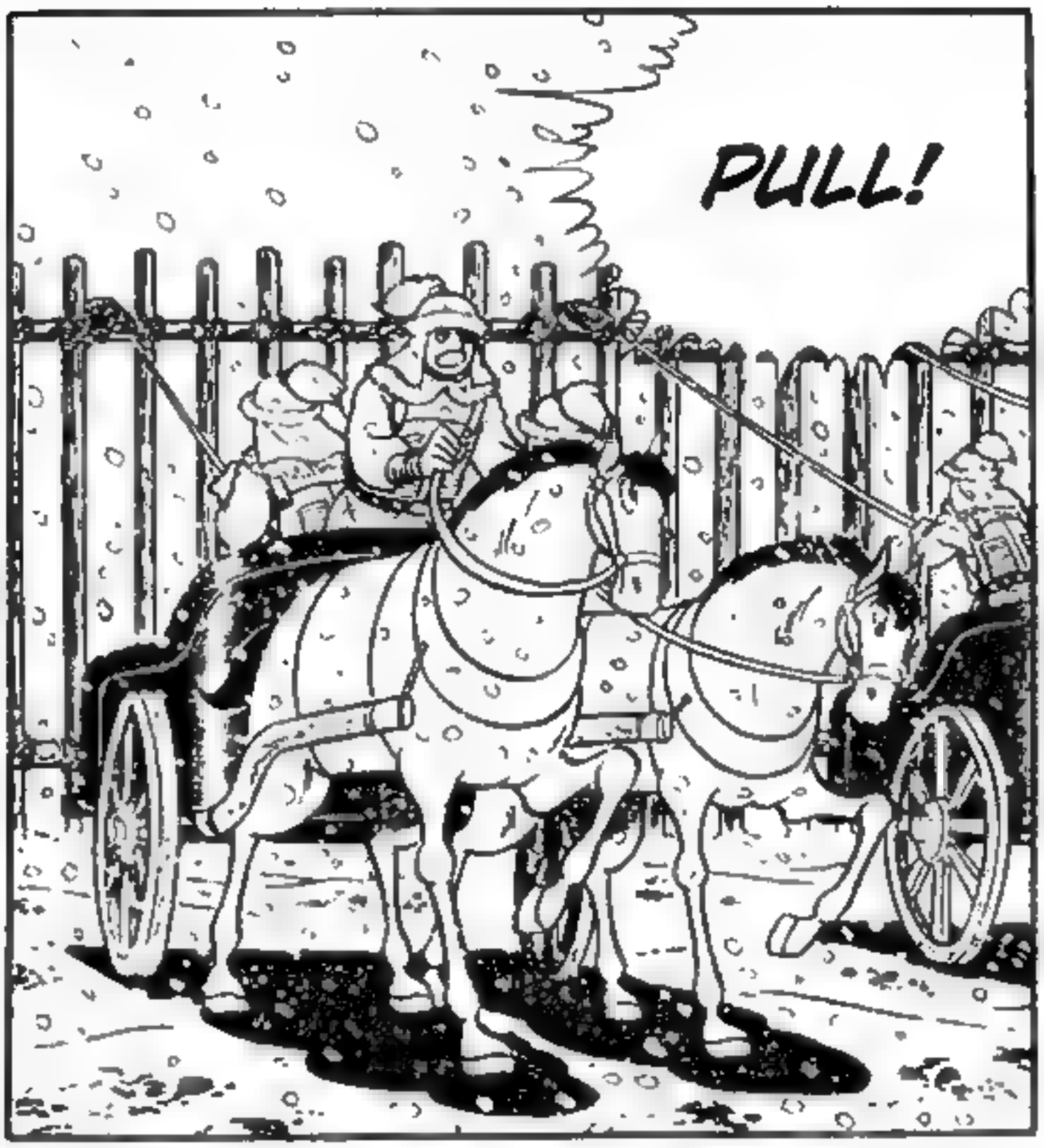


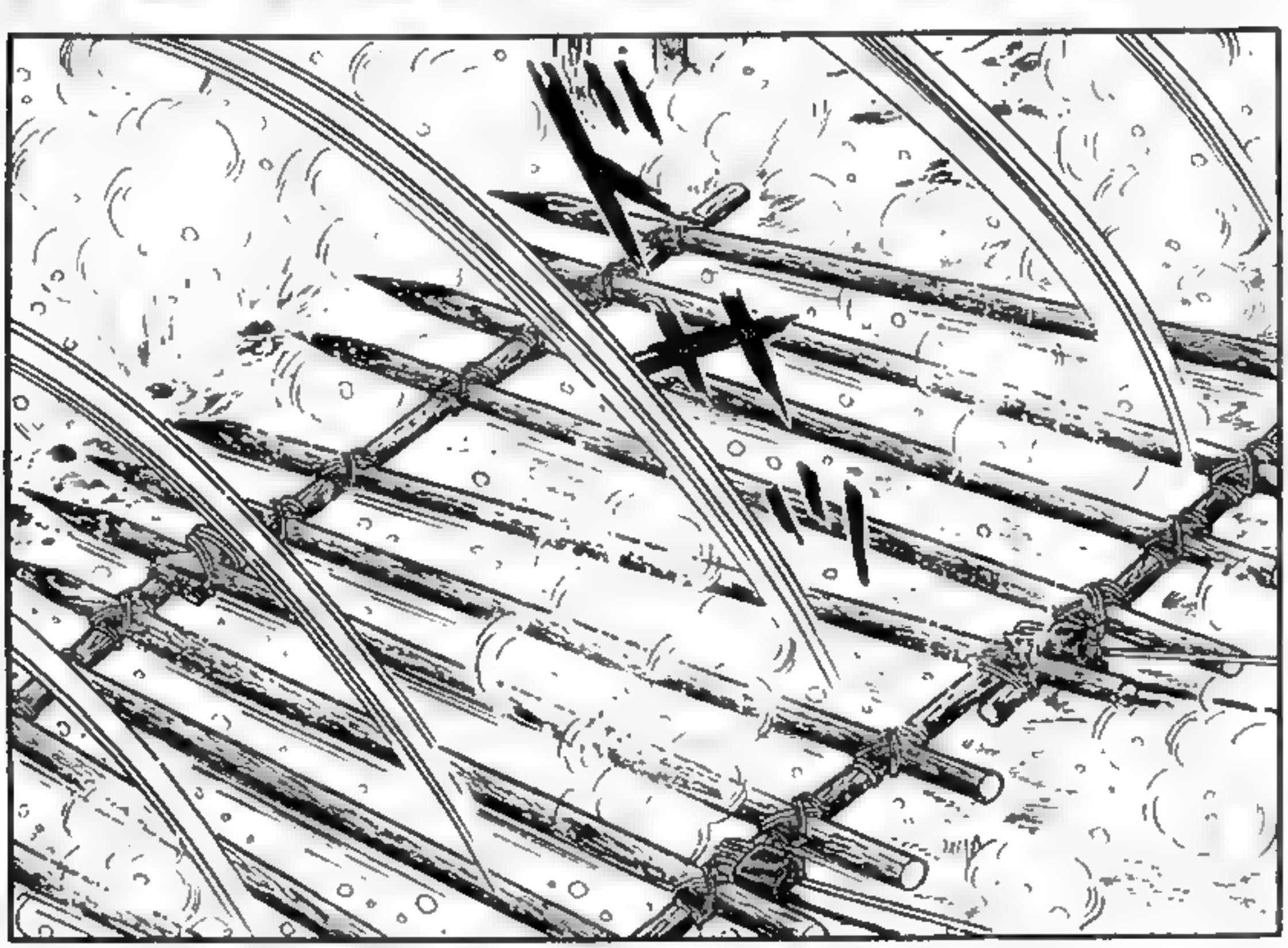




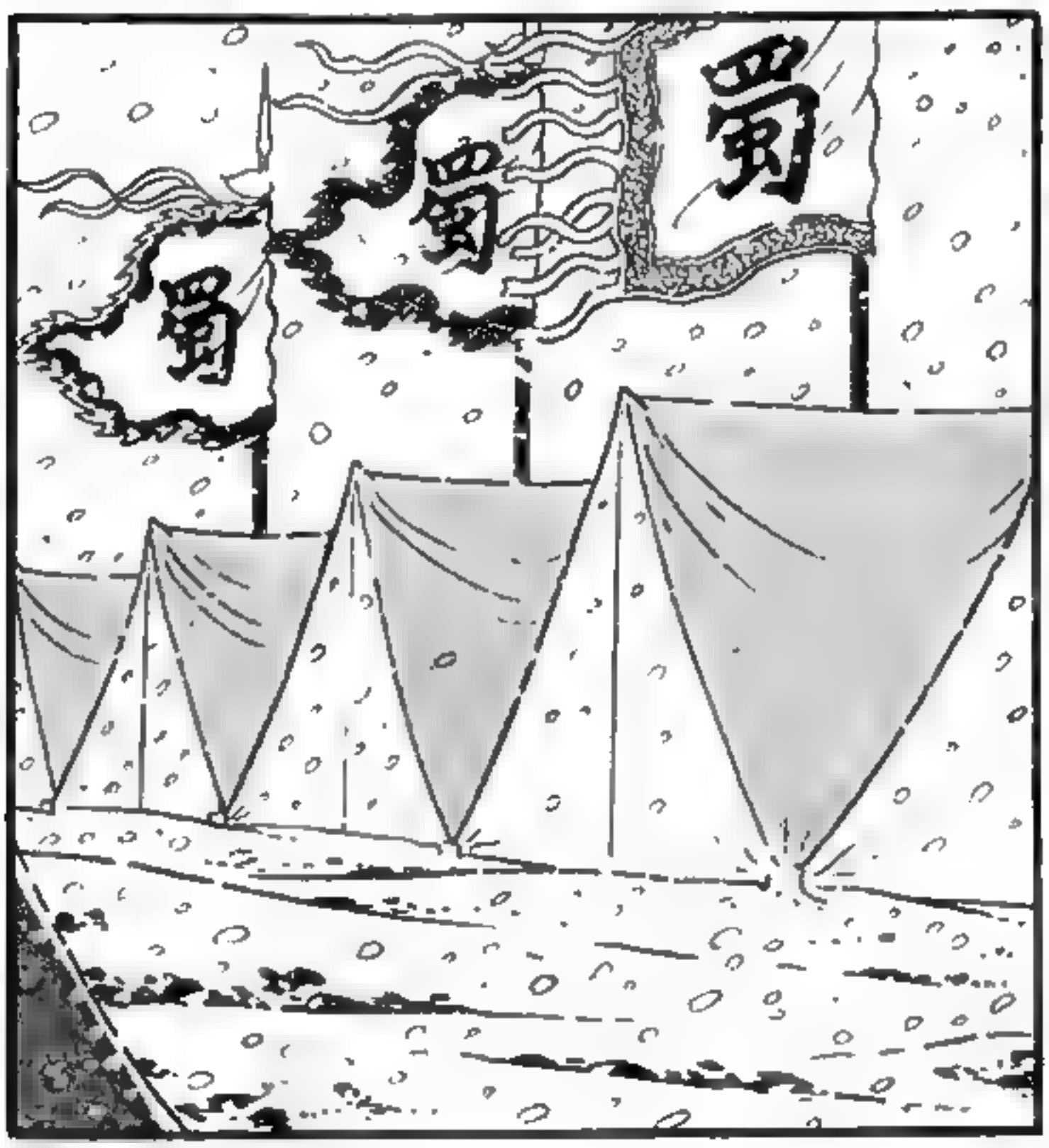

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PULL!





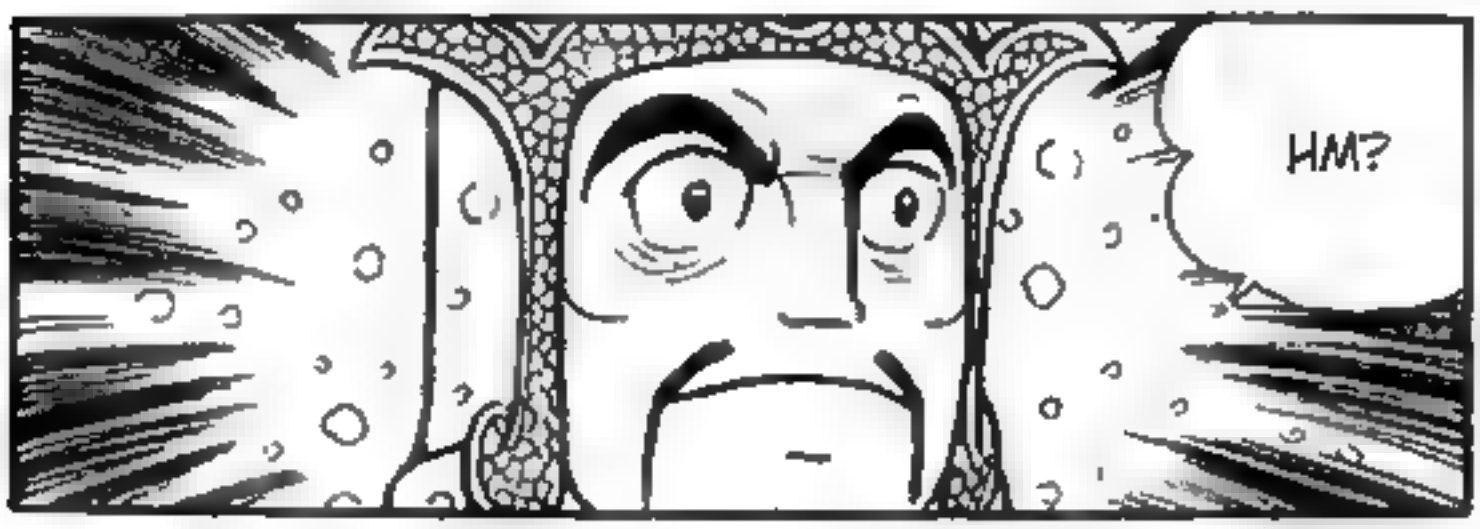

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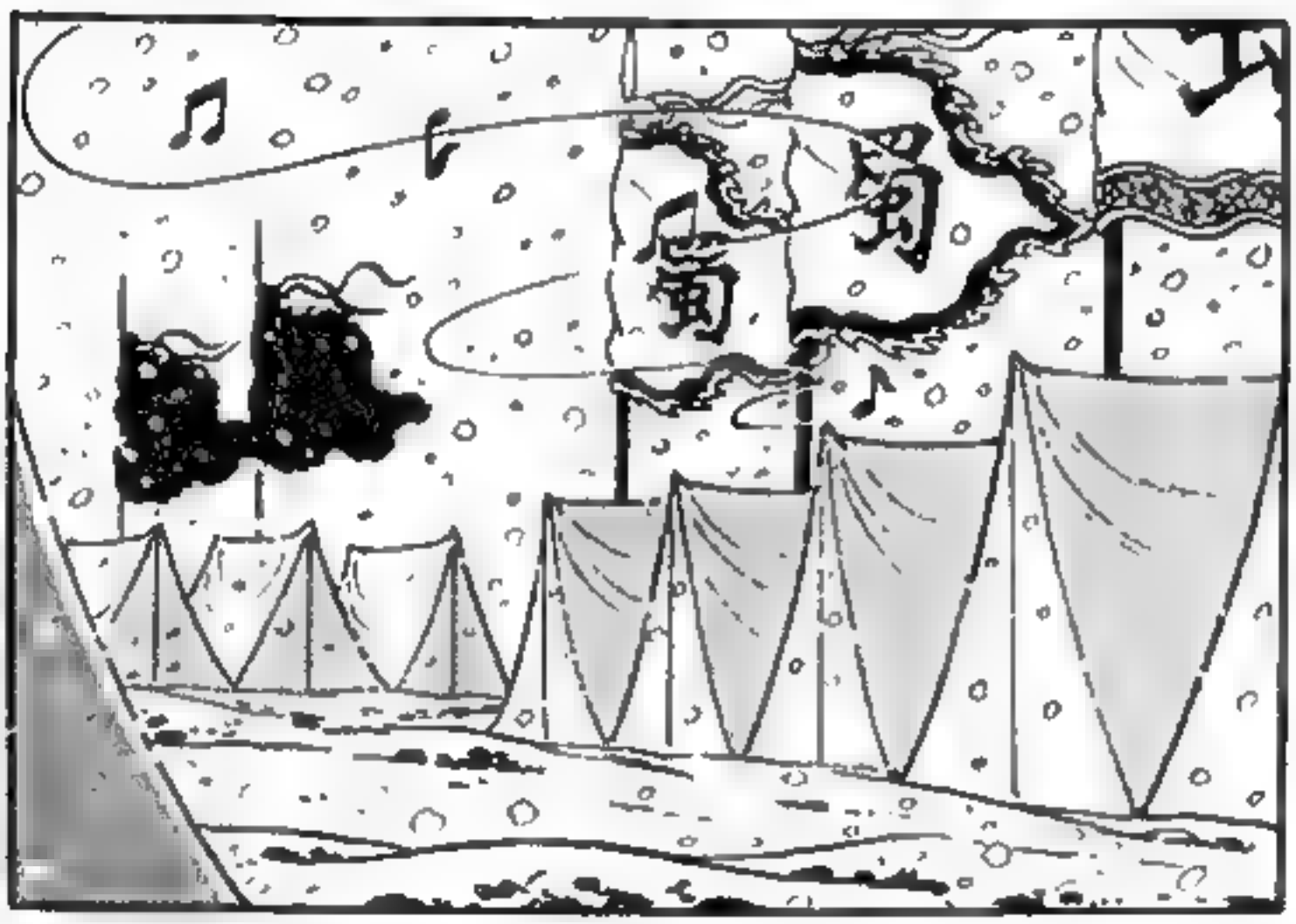

HM?


HM?


HMM...


SIR, THERE'S NO ONE HERE!


HM?




I'VE HEARD KONGMING WAS A CRAFTY FELLOW FAMOUS FOR HIS FEINTS AND DECEPTION. PROCEED WITH CAUTION!


JUST AS I THOUGHT, THEY MUST HAVE SOME TRAP HERE.


IS THAT A LUTE I HEAR?

WELL, AS YOU CAN SEE, THERE ARE NO ENEMIES TO BE FOUND IN THEIR CAMP AND YET THERE'S AN EERIE SOUND OF A LUTE COMING FROM SOMEWHERE.

PRIME MINISTER YA DAN!

WHY HAVE YOU HALTED YOUR ADVANCE, MARSHAL YUE JI?

HAHA, YES, THAT'S CERTAINLY ONE WAY OF LOOKING AT THINGS.

CONSIDERING KONGMING'S REPUTATION, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BEST TO EXERCISE CAUTION.

HM?

AH, THAT'S TRUE.

BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK THE ENEMIES WHO'VE HAD NO SUCCESS IN TAKING DOWN OUR CHARIOTS, WOULD SUDDENLY WIN JUST BECALSE THEY HID A FEW TROOPS IN THEIR CAMPS SOMEWHERE?


KONGMING!

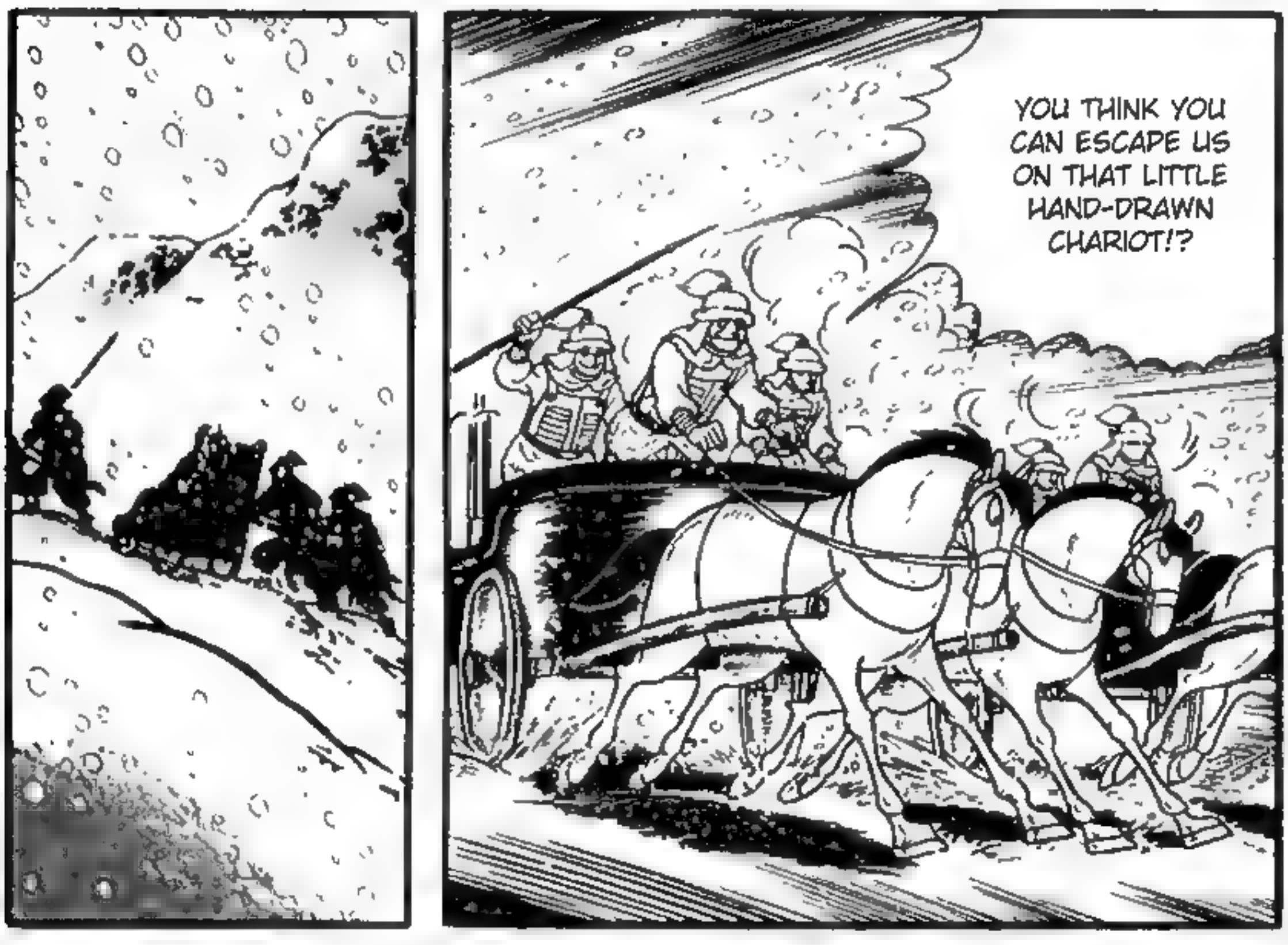


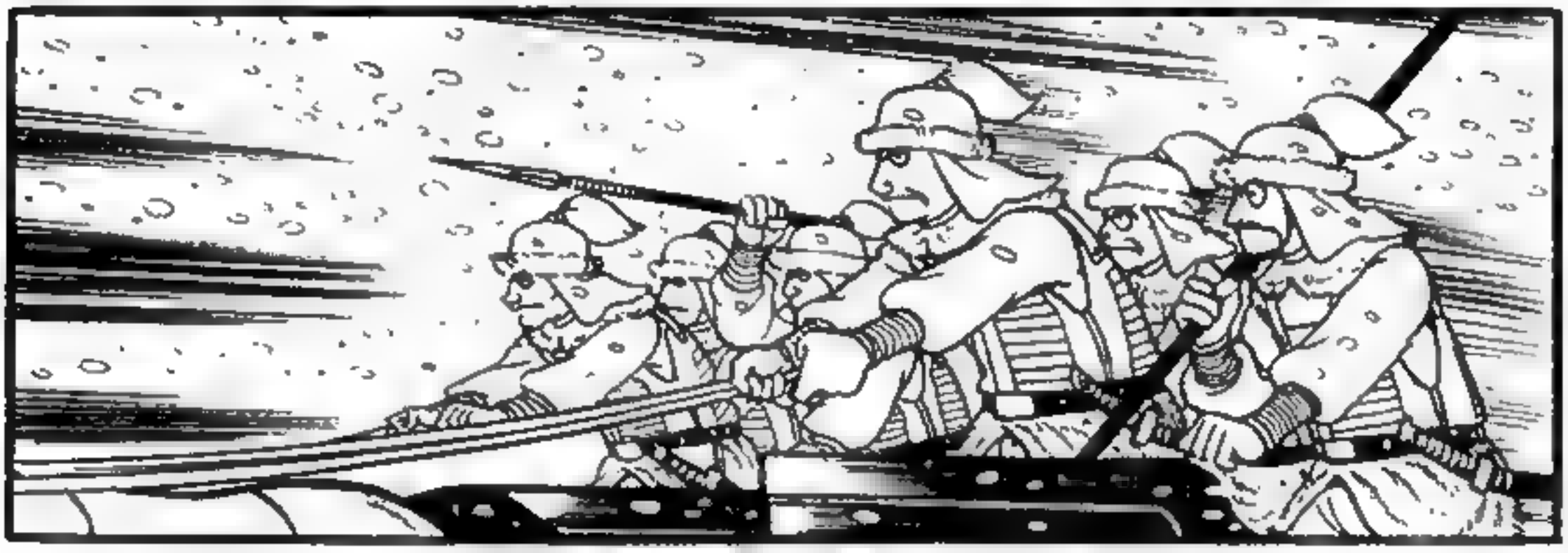

RESUME ATTACK! DON'T LET KONGMING ESCAPE!

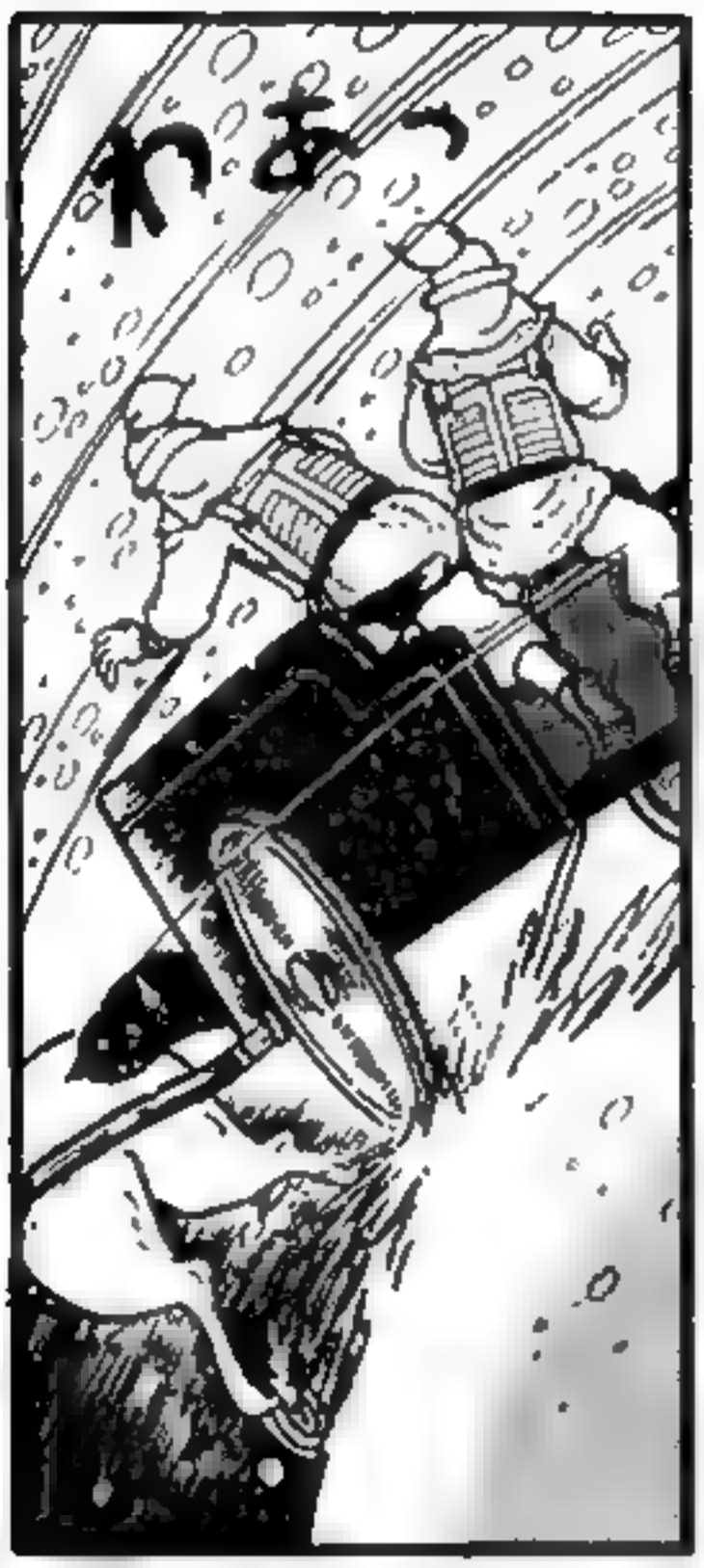

HAHA! I SEE HIS PLAN NOW! HE WAS PLAYING HIS LUTE TO MAKE US SECOND-GUESS OUR-SELVES, IN ORDER TO BUY ENOUGH TIME FOR HIS TROOPS TO ESCAPE!




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YOU THINK YOU CAN ESCAPE US ON THAT LITTLE HAND-DRAWN CHARIOT!?



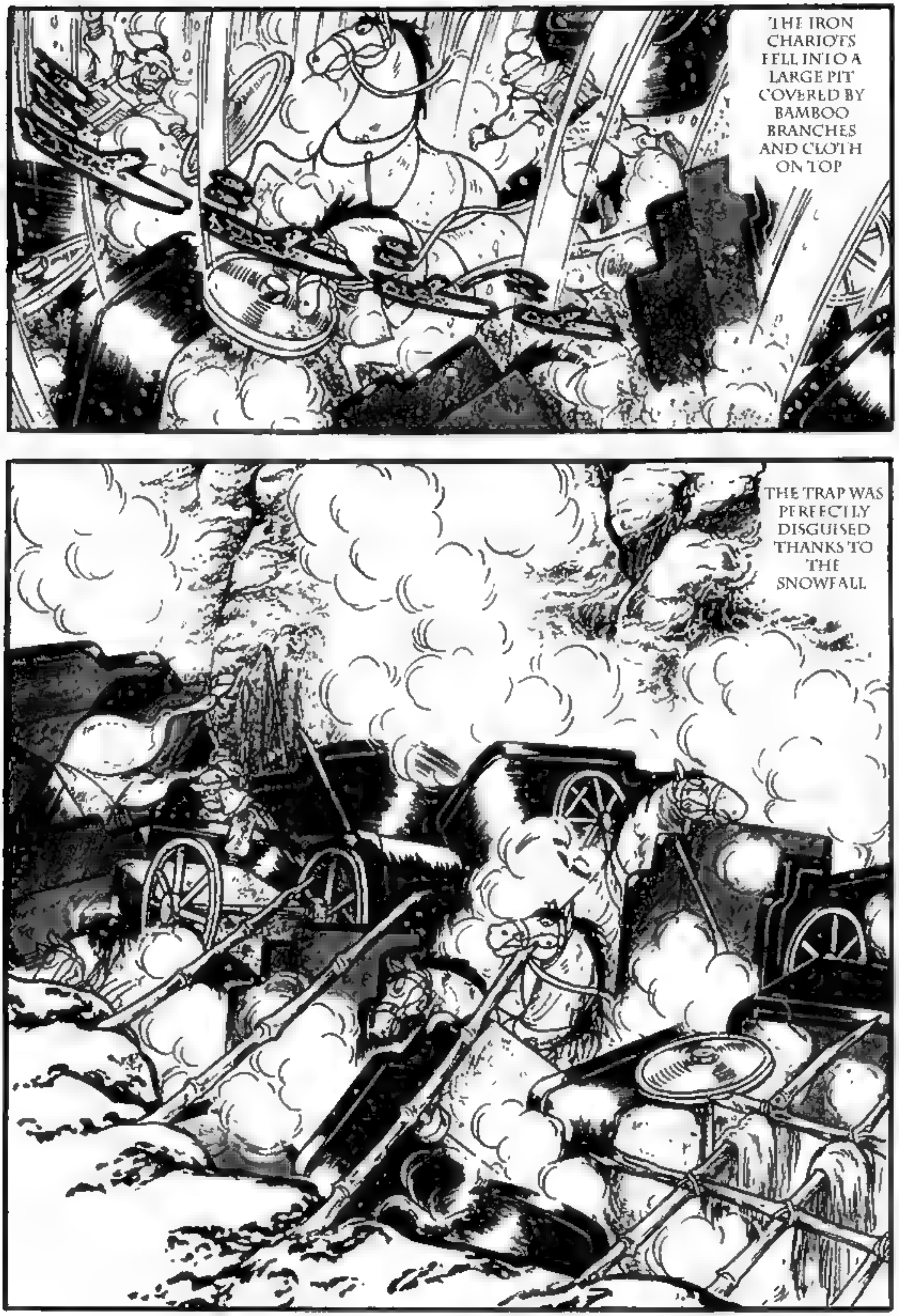

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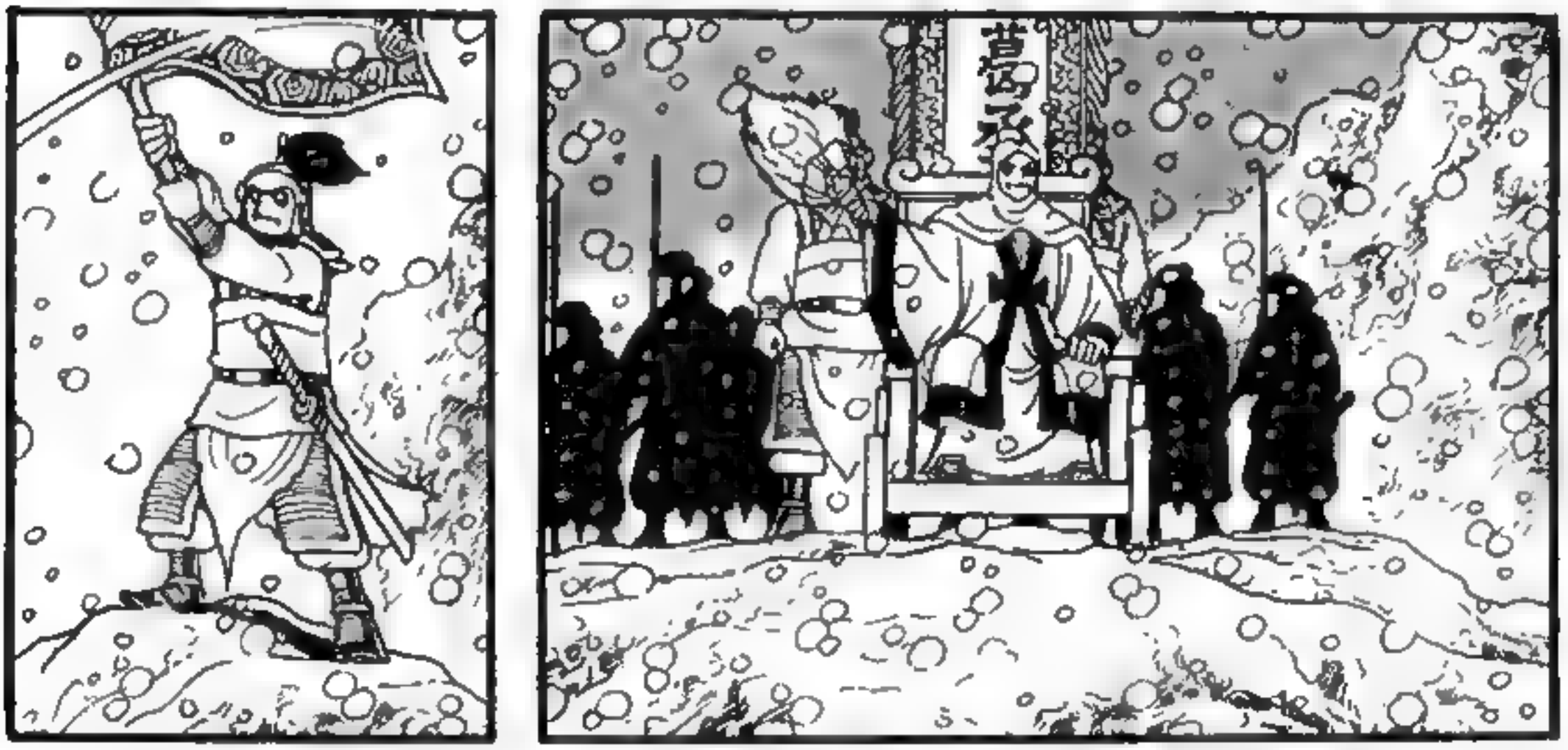

DON'T STOP SO SUDDENLY!

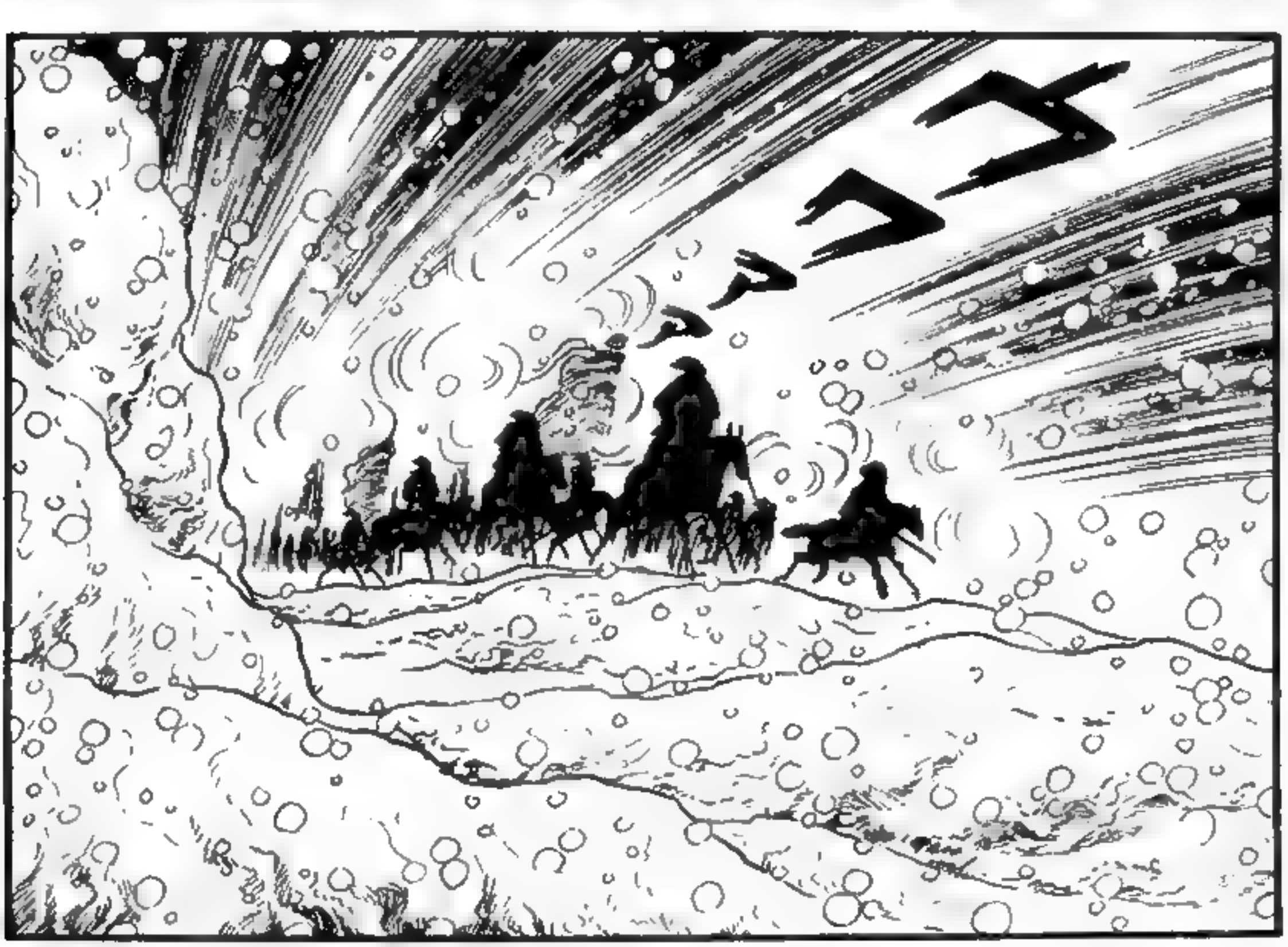

IT'S A PIT!


AGHHHH!

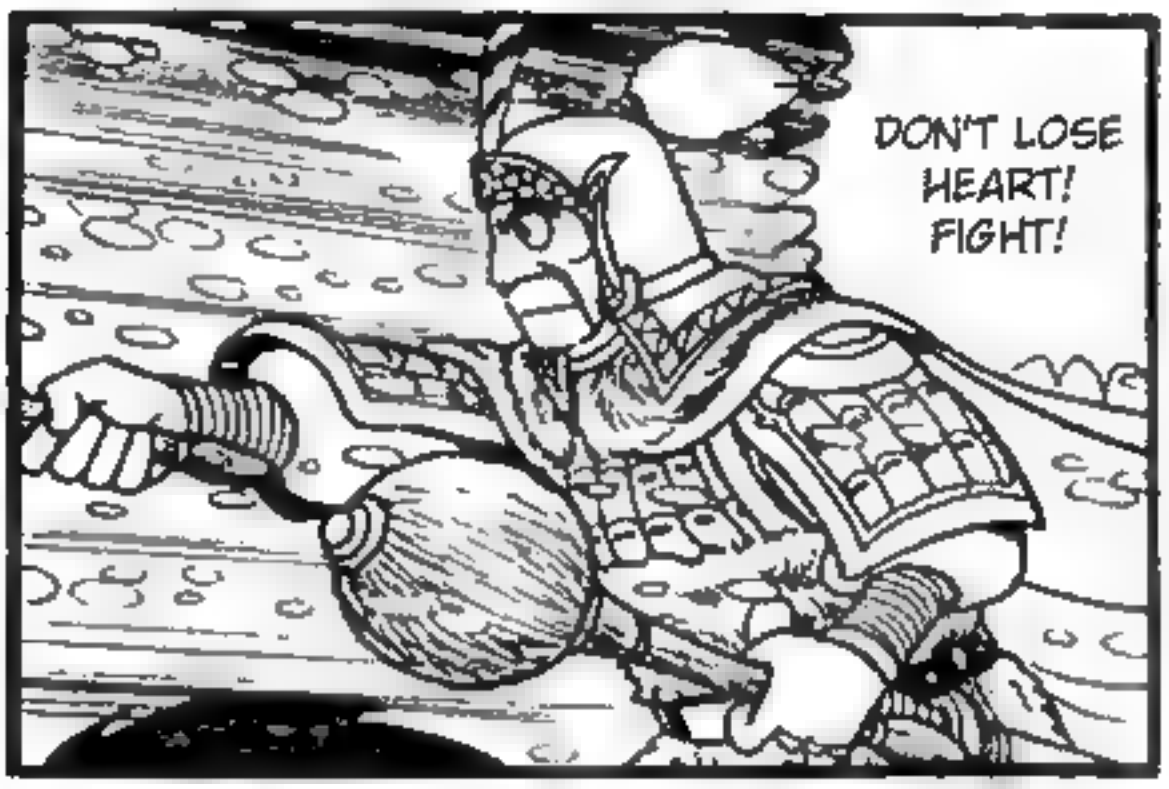

THE IRON CHARIOTS FELL INTO A LARGE PIT COVERED BY BAMBOO BRANCHES AND CLOTH ON TOP
THE TRAP WAS PERFECTLY DISGUISED THANKS TO THE SNOWFALL


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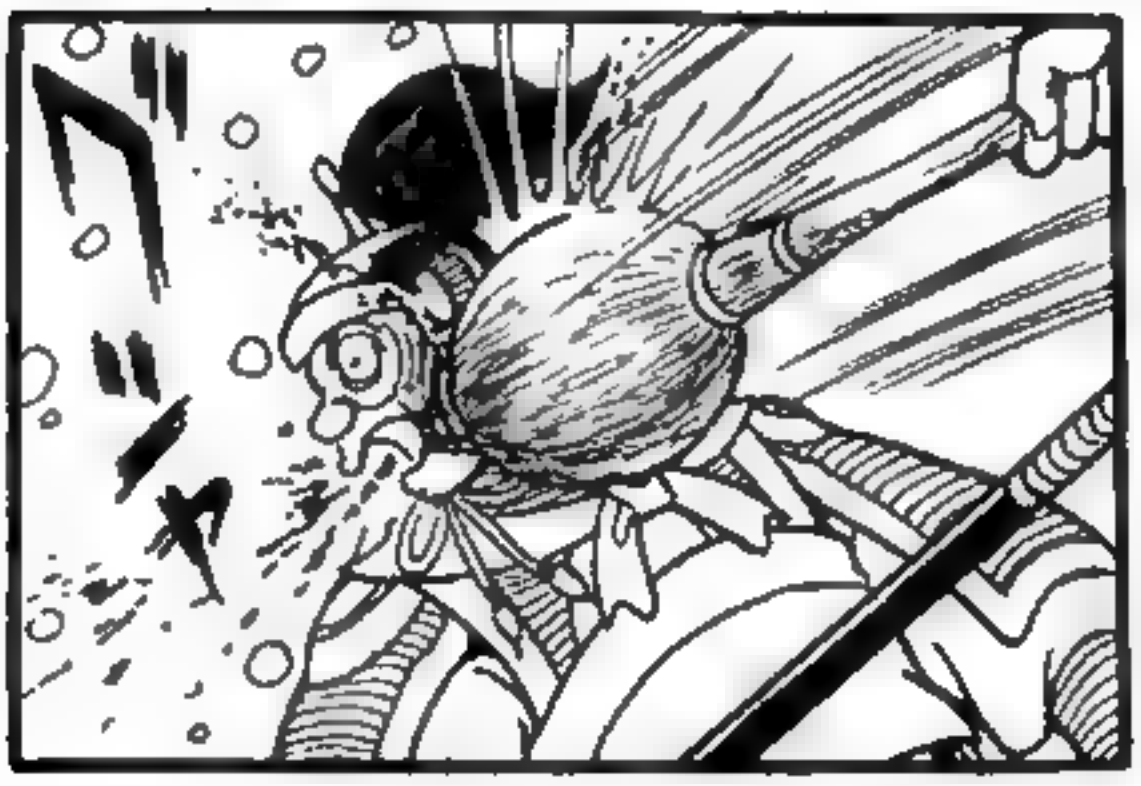




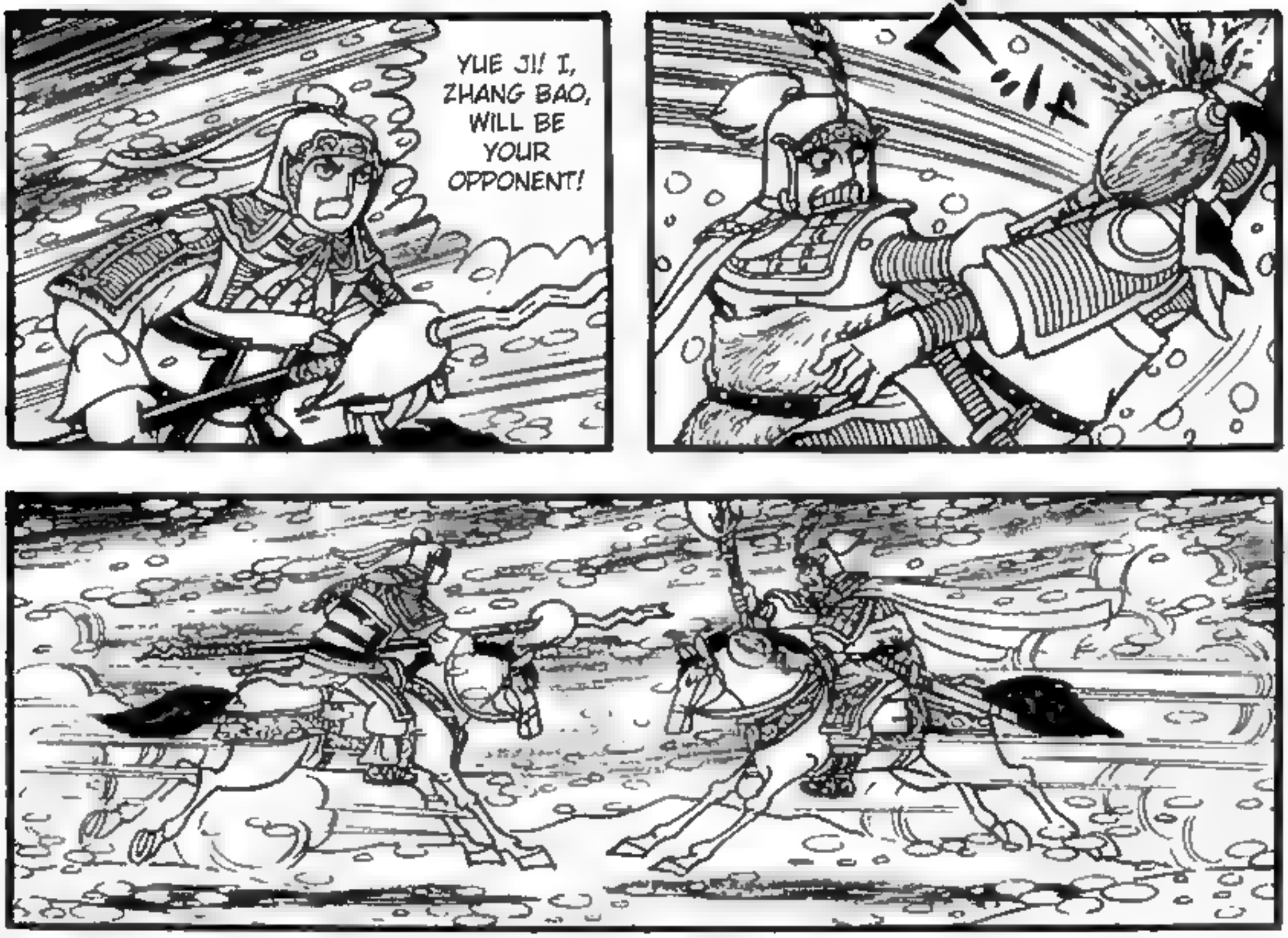

DON'T LOSE HEART! FIGHT!


THEY REALLY WERE PLANNING TO AMBUSH US!








YUE JI! I, ZHANG BAO, WILL BE YOUR OPPONENT!

WHAT!

HIDDEN ENEMIES TO OUR LEFT, SIR!

AHH!

AN OPENING!

NGHH!

RETREAT!
RETREAT!

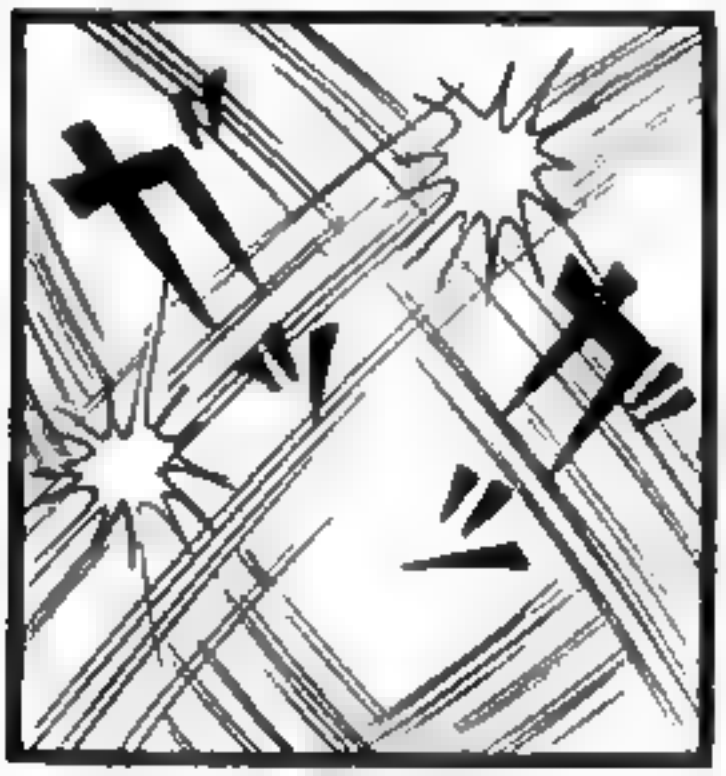
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE, YUE JI! I, GUAN XING, WILL HAVE MY REVENGE!




IT'S THE RUNT FROM THAT OTHER TIME...!

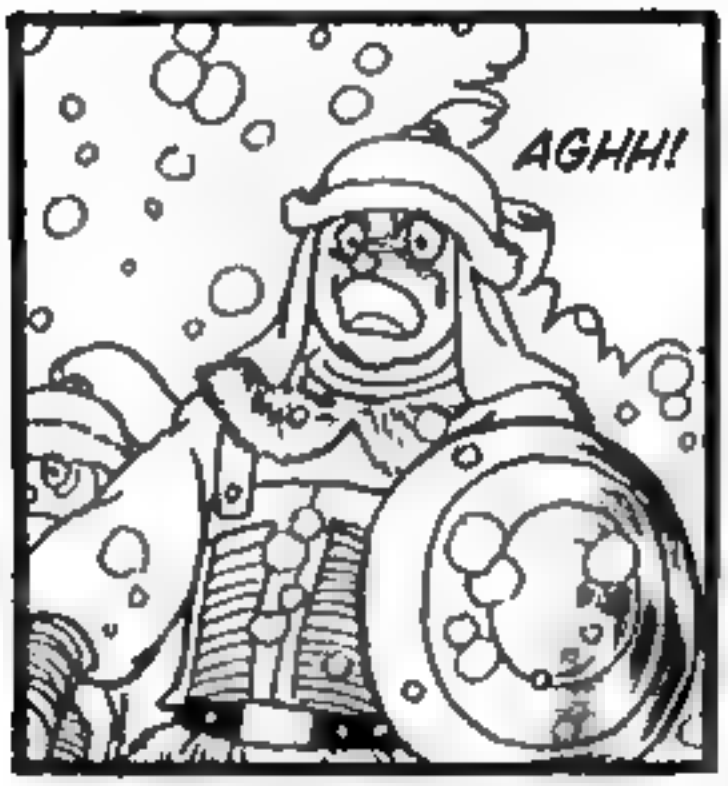


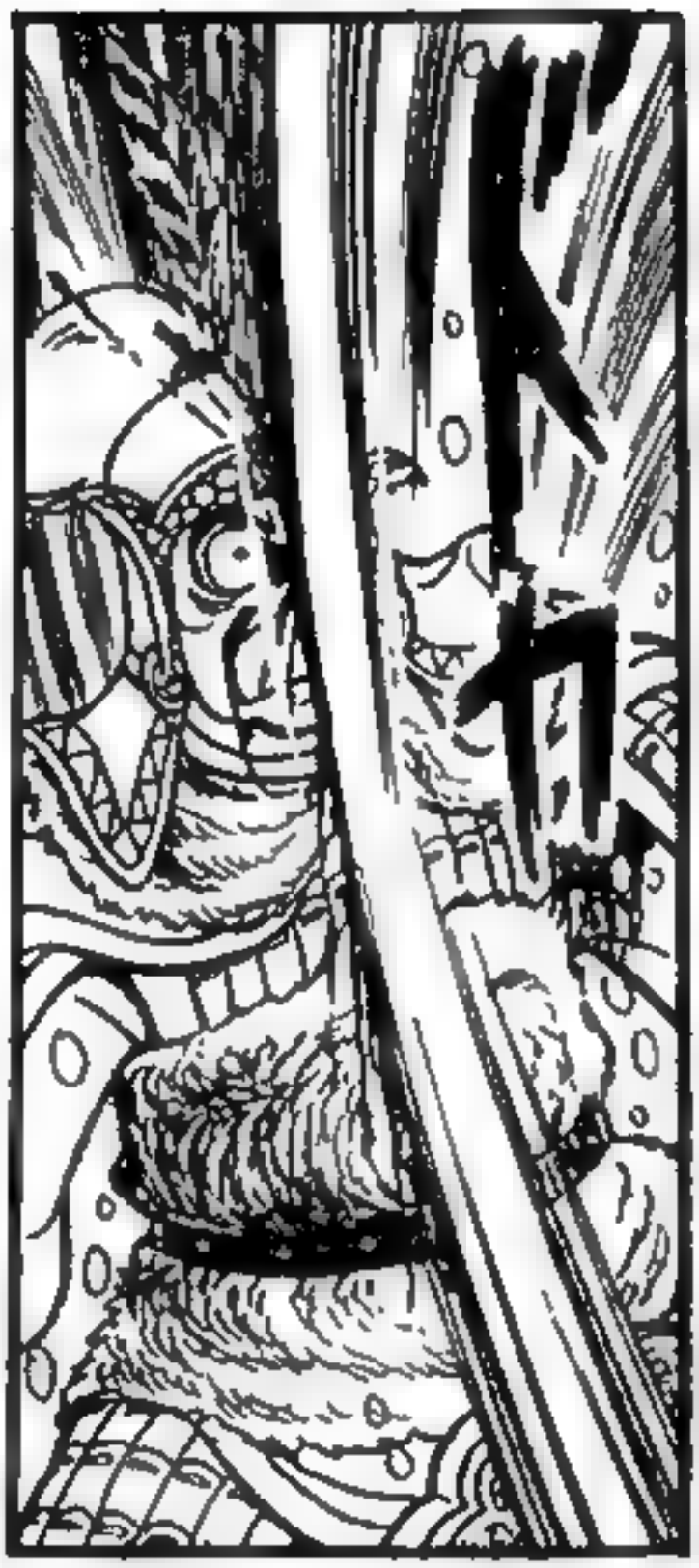


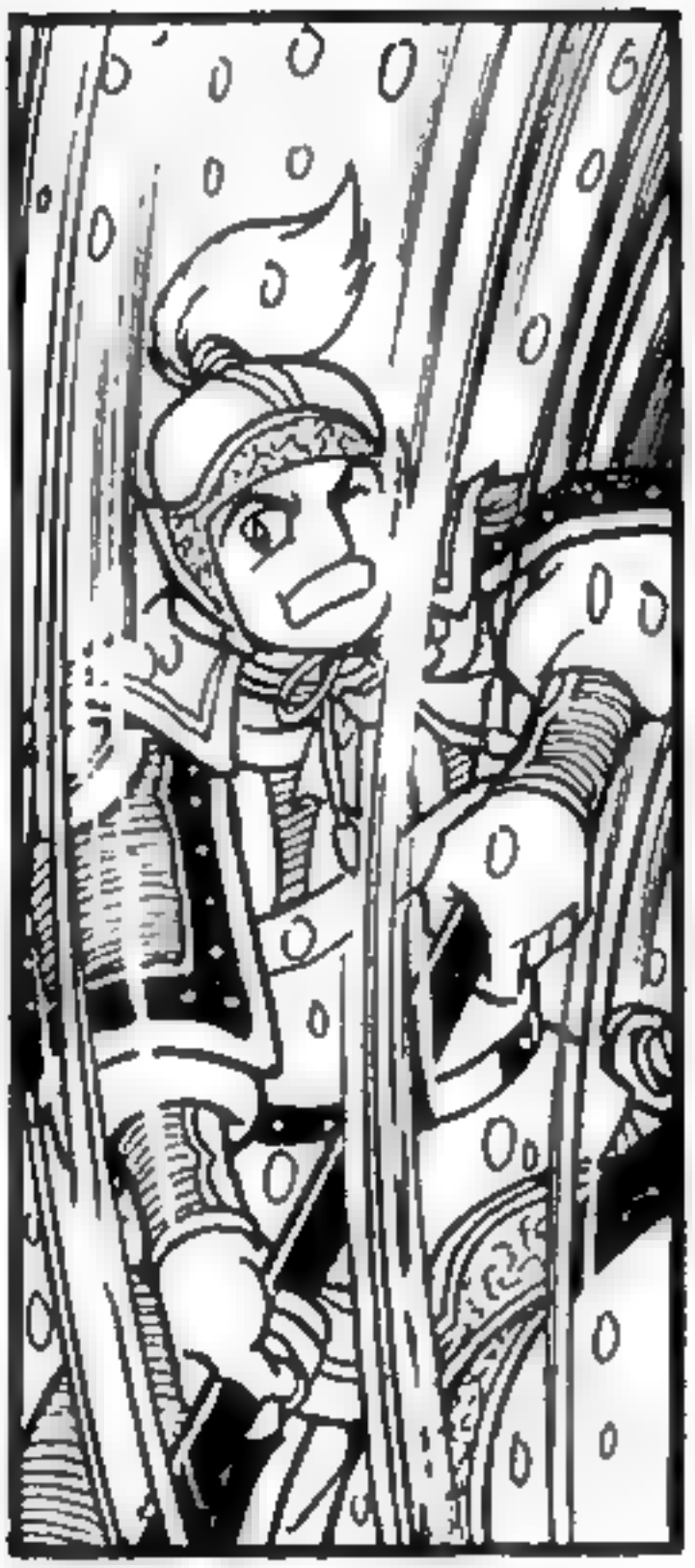





HUFF
HUFF


AGHH!






YUE JI
IS
DEAD!


RUN
FOR IT!
AGHH!


WHA!?

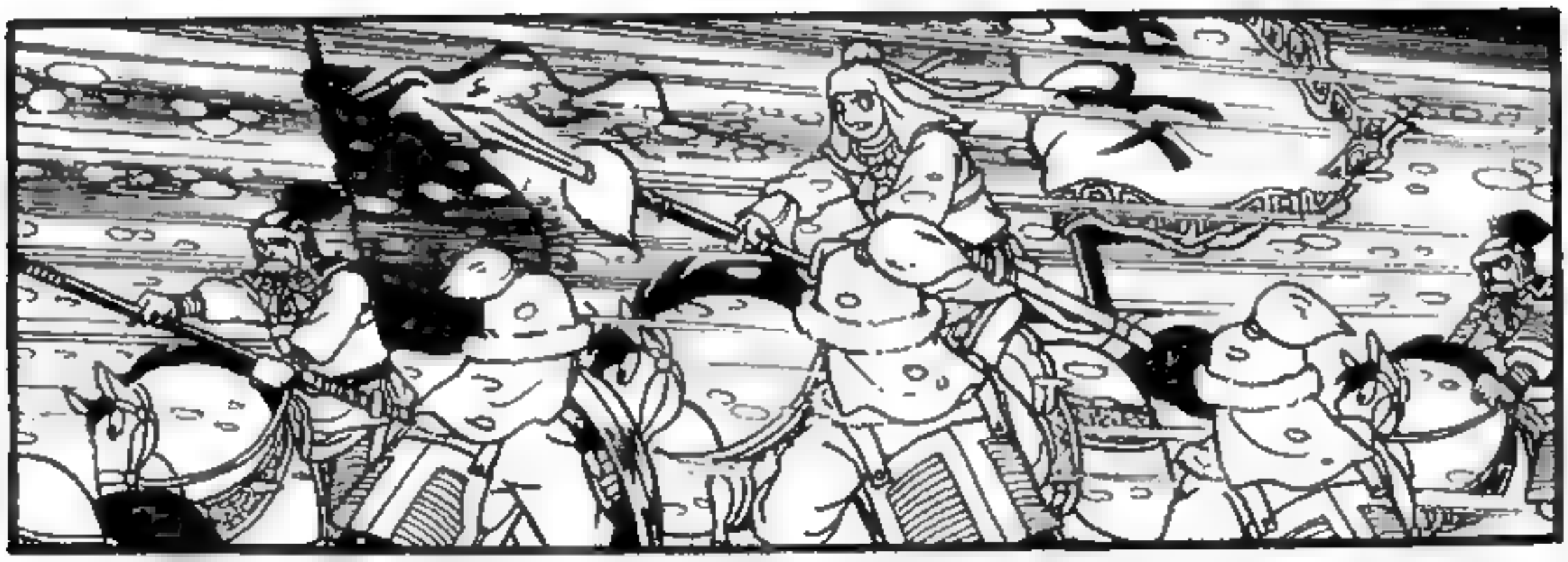

YOU WON'T ESCAPE THAT EASILY.

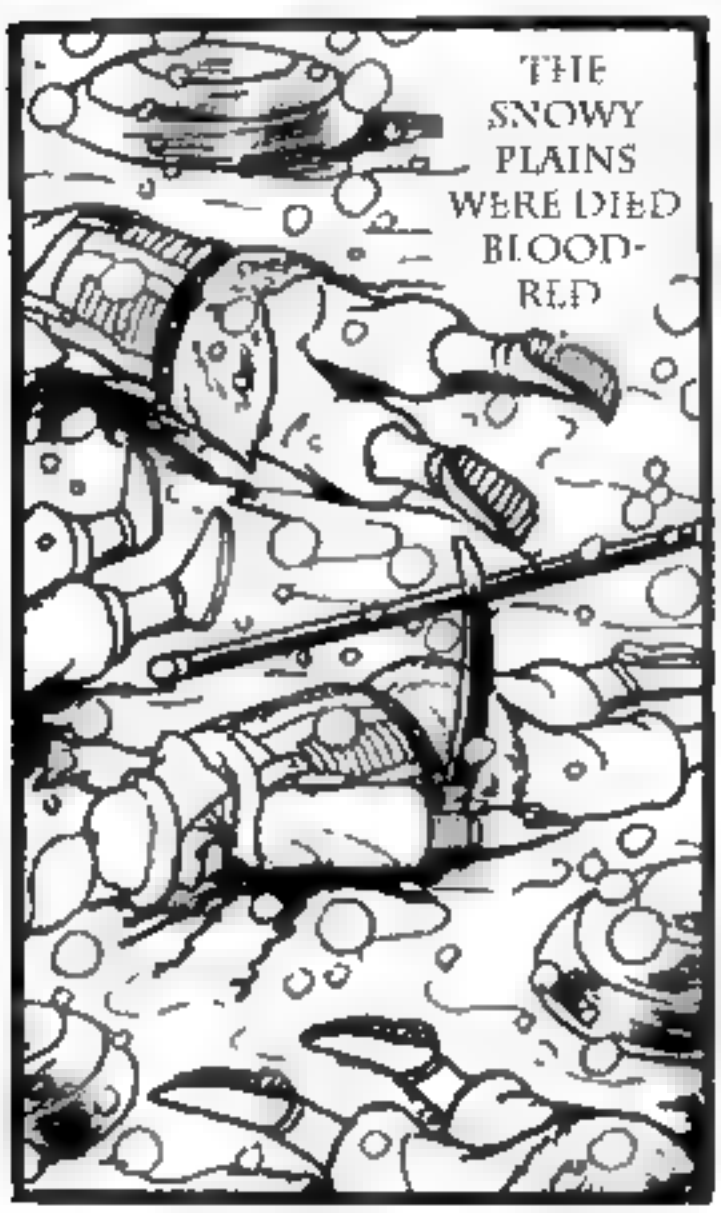






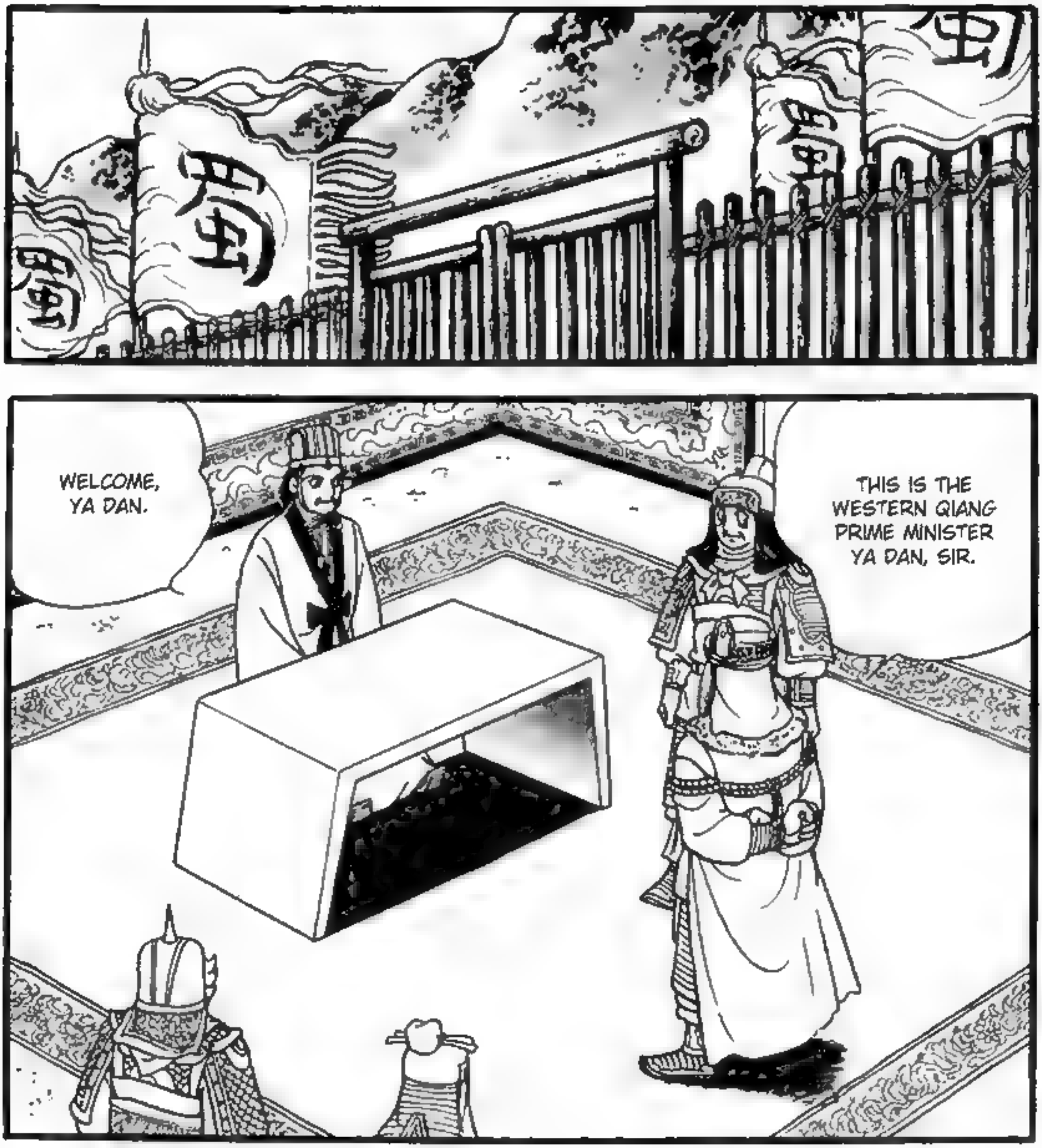

ATTACK!

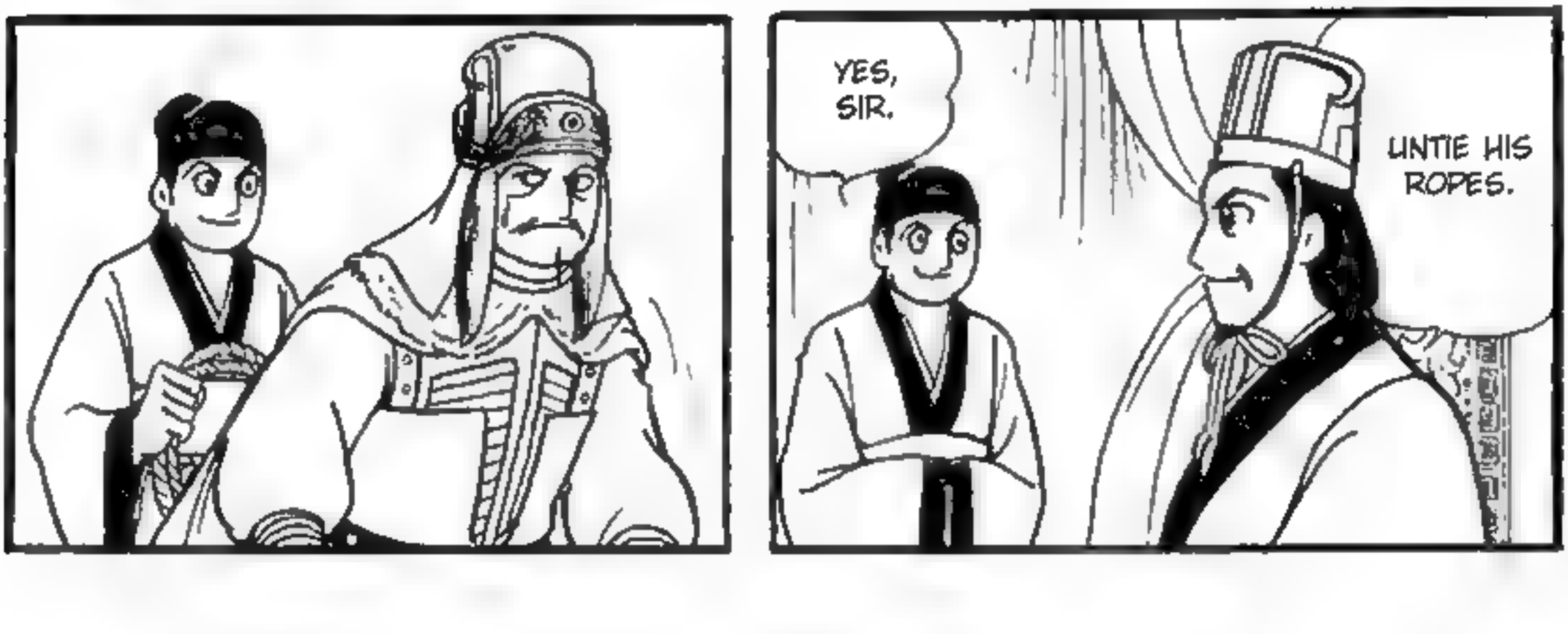



THE SNOWY PLAINS WERE DIED BLOOD-RED


AMBUSHED AND DEPRIVED OF THEIR CHARIOT SUPPORT, THE REMAINING WESTERN QIANG TROOPS WERE EASILY CUT DOWN


THE REMAINING SURVIVORS SURRENDERED


WELCOME, YA DAN.
THIS IS THE WESTERN QIANG PRIME MINISTER YA DAN, SIR.


YES, SIR.
UNTIE HIS ROPES.

OUR STATE BEARS NO ILL WILL TOWARDS THE WESTERN QIANG, AND WOULD RATHER FOSTER FRIENDLY RELATIONS.

?

IF YOU CONTINUE TO HELP THE REBELS OF WEI, YOU YOURSELVES WILL BE REBELS IN OUR EYES. SO PLEASE REPORT THUS TO YOUR KING.

NOW IT SEEMS WEI HAS GOTTEN YOU INVOLVED IN THE INTERNAL POLITICS OF THE HAN REALM, BUT I MUST POINT OUT THAT IT IS THE WEI EMPEROR WHO USURPED THE THRONE. THE SHU EMPEROR IS OF THE SAME IMPERIAL LIU LINEAGE OF HAN.

YES, I WILL LET YOU AND YOUR TROOPS RETURN TO YOUR HOMELANDS.

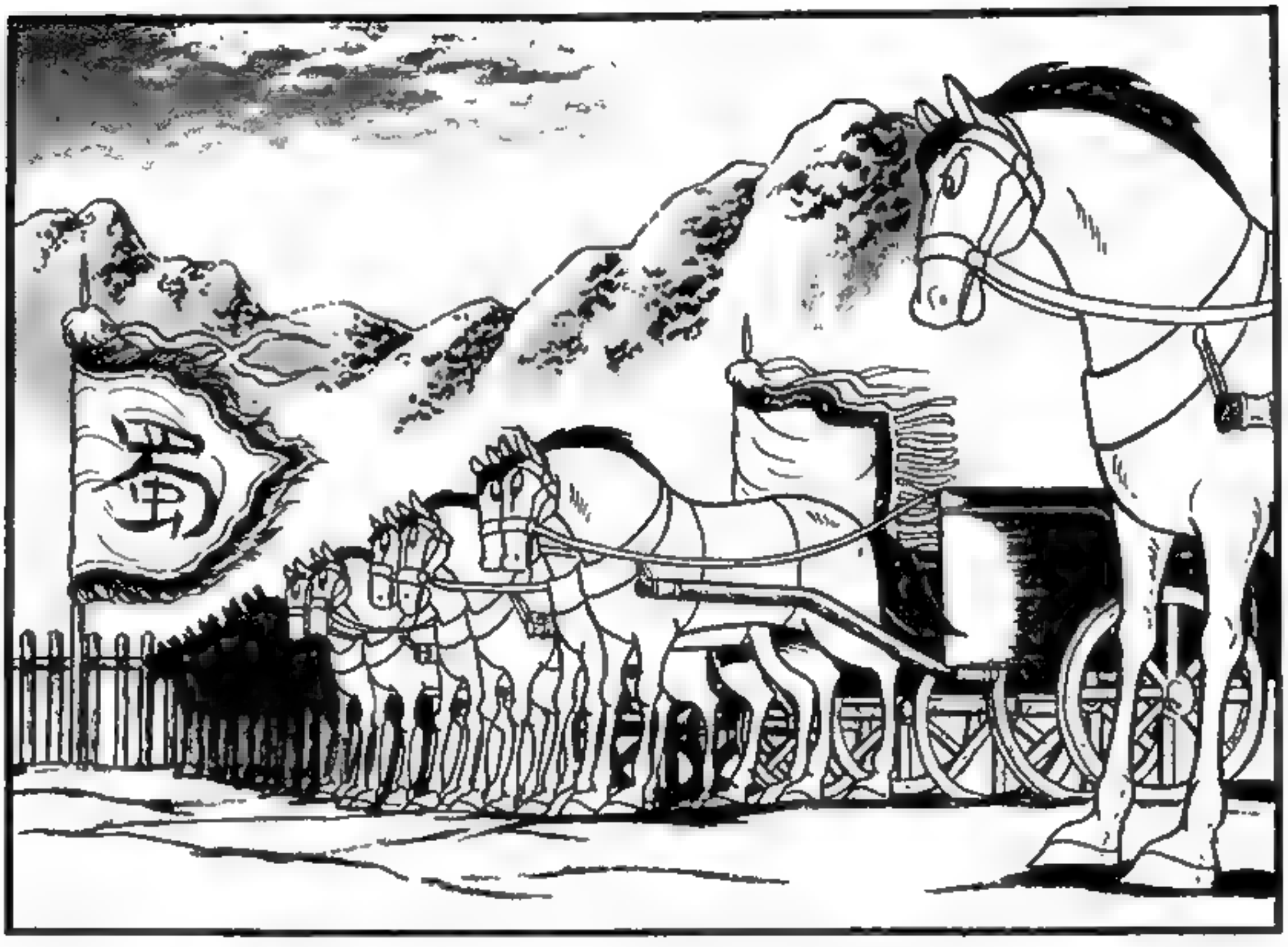
REPORT TO MY KING...?

YES, FOLLOW ME.

RELEASE US!?

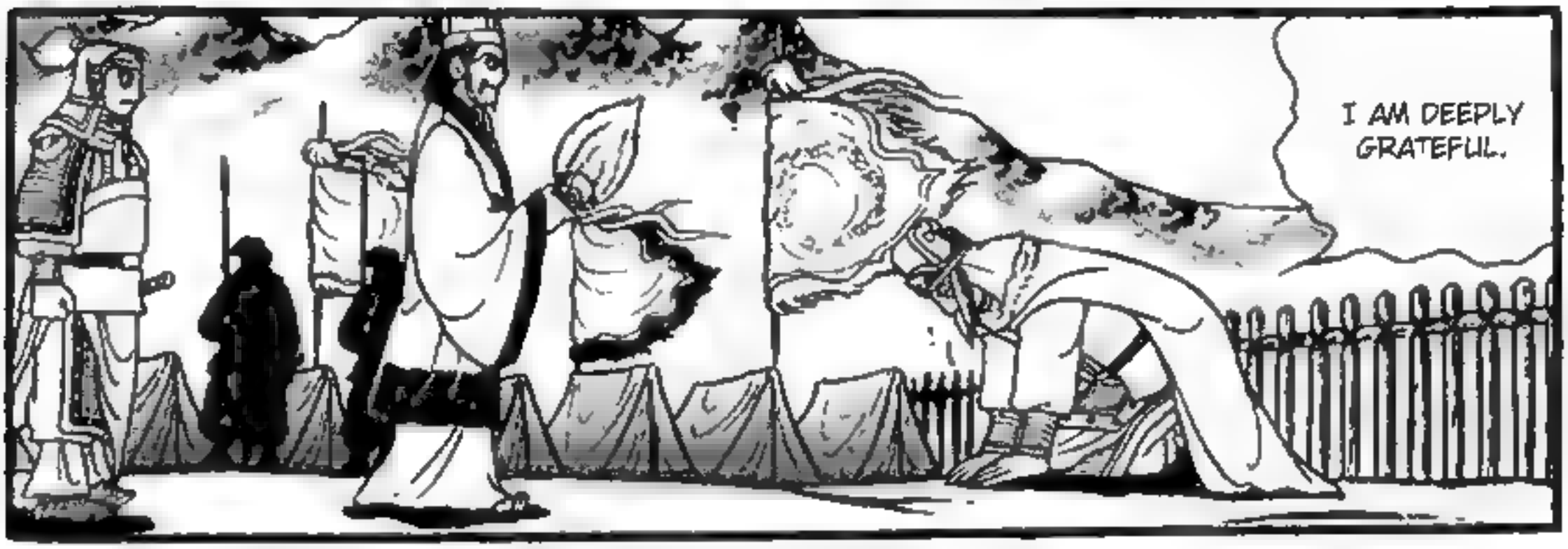
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HERE.





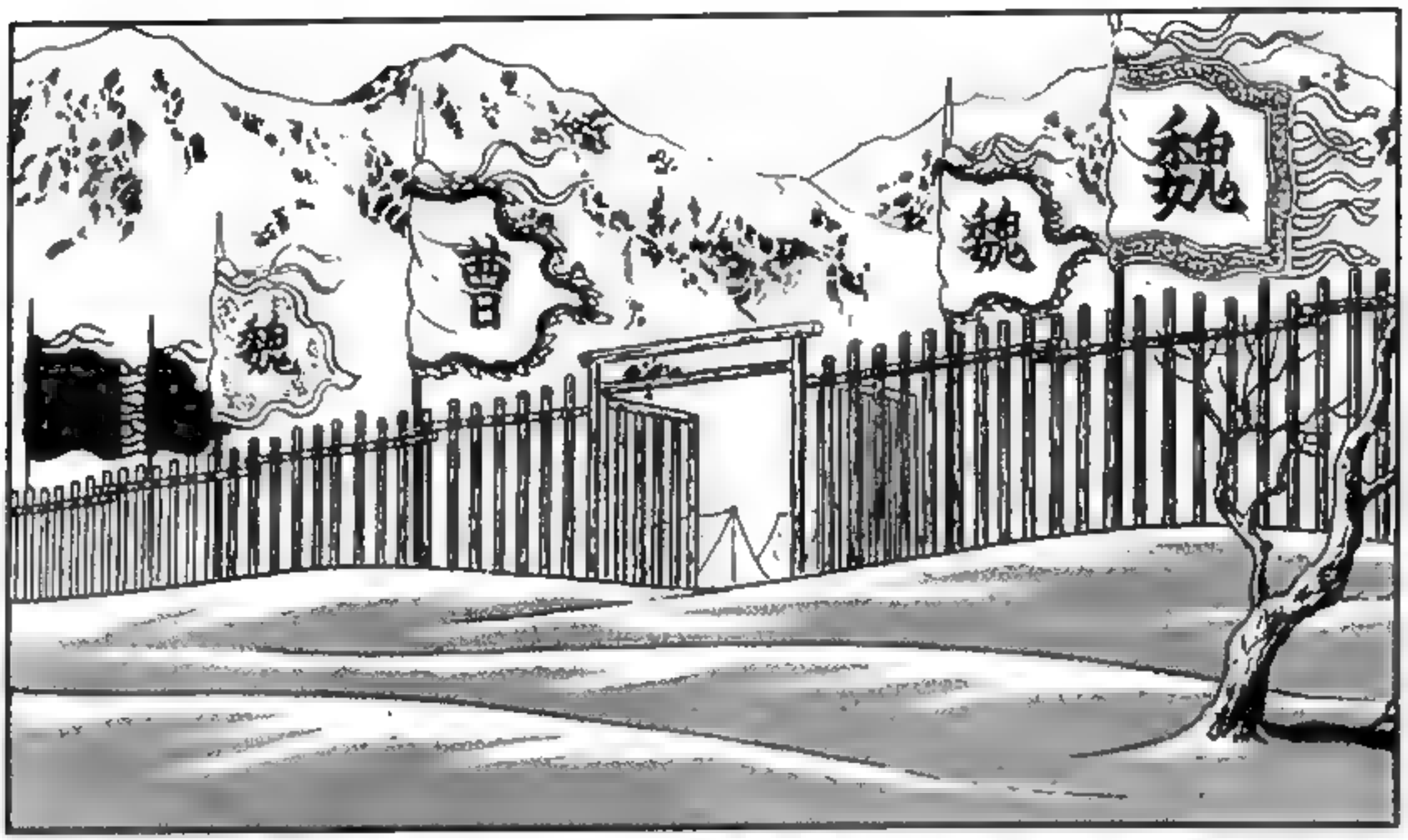

WE ALSO DREW UP YOUR PRECIOUS IRON CHARIOTS FROM THE PIT SO YOU MAY LEAVE WITH THEM.

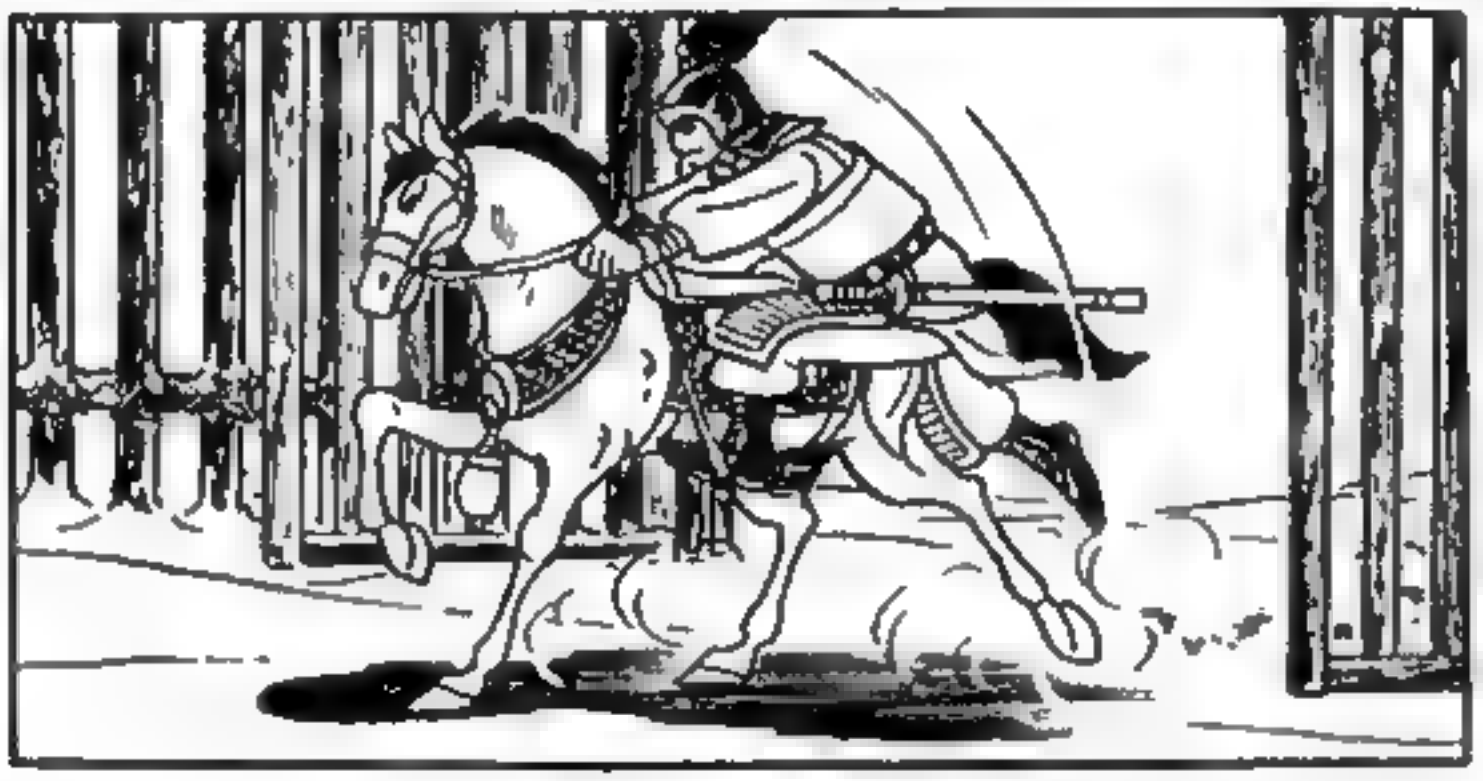

I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL.

YI DAN AND THE WESTERN QIANG TROOPS THUS WITHDREW HOME AFTER THANKING KONGMING

NOW TO TURN MY ATTENTION BACK TO CAO ZHEN...

# A PILLAR OF WEI







WHAT IS IT?

I BRING A REPORT, SIR!

WHAT!?

SHU FORCES HAVE BROKEN CAMP AND BEGUN TO WITHDRAW!

YES, THAT DOES SEEM LIKELY...

IT MUST BE BECAUSE OF THE WESTERN QIANG ARMY! THEIR REAR MUST BE THREATENED, FORCING THEM TO ABANDON THEIR POSITION HERE.

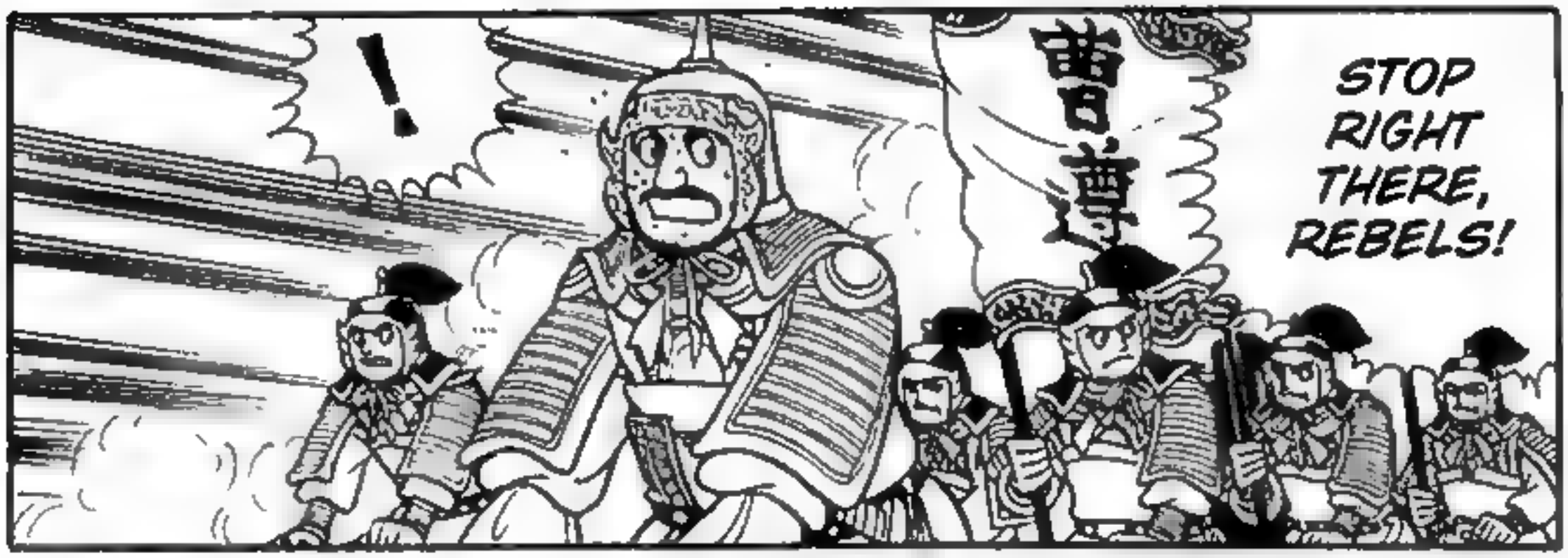
VERY WELL, WE WILL BEGIN THE PURSUIT AS TWO DIVISIONS.

WE MUST NOT WASTE THIS CHANCE! PLEASE ORDER A PURSUIT AT ONCE, SIR!

THE DRUMS FOR ATTACK BEGAN TO BEAT IN WEI'S CAMPS ONCE MORE

THE VANGUARD DIVISION WAS LED BY CAO ZUN

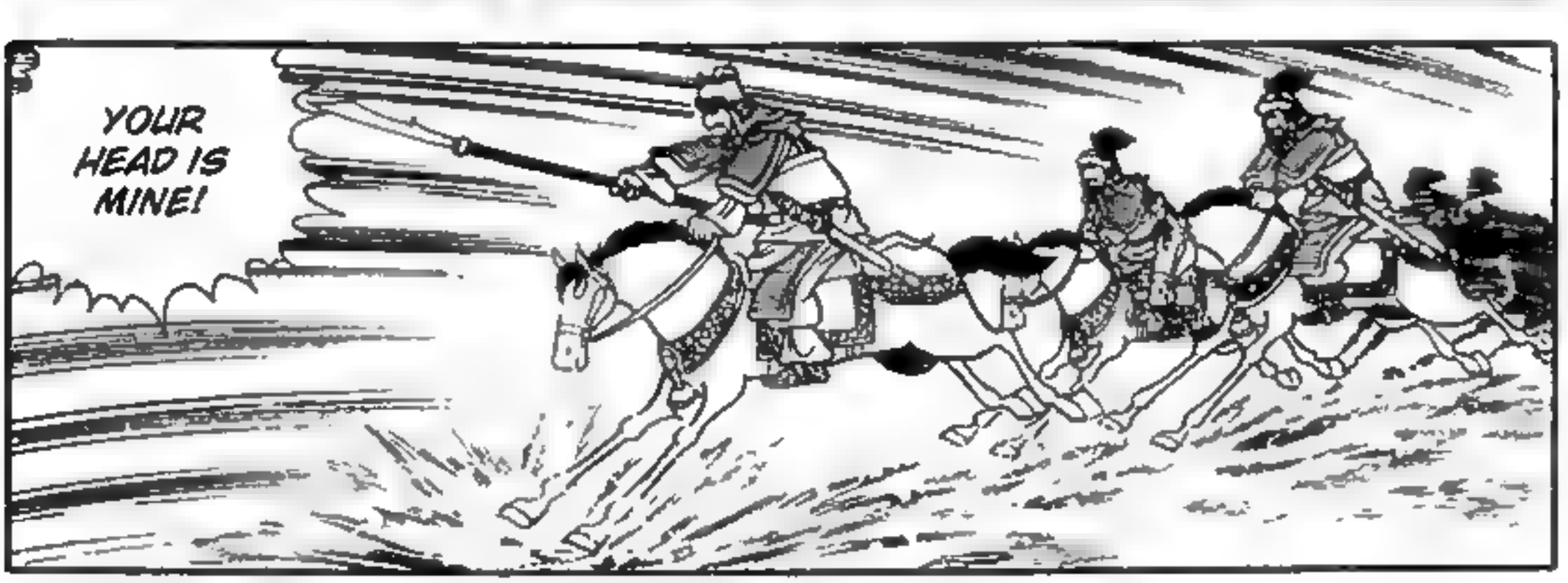

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HE WAS SHORTLY FOLLOWED BY ZHU ZAN
LOOK! THE RETREATING ENEMY FORCES ARE JUST UP AHEAD!
AHH!
THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE! CHARGE!


!
STOP RIGHT THERE, REBELS!


ENEMIES!?

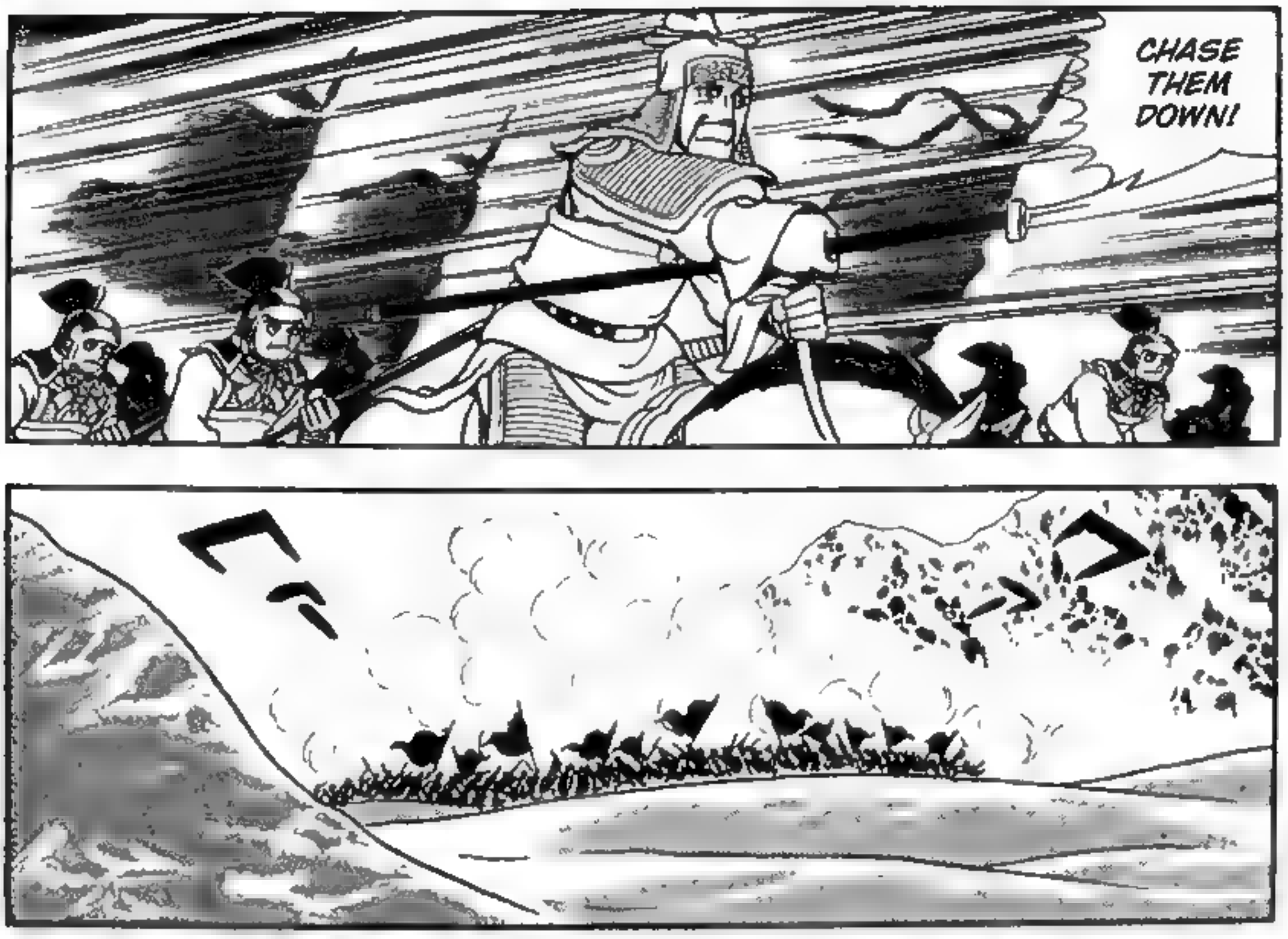



IT'S AN AMBUSH!


YOUR HEAD IS MINE!

AGHH!

GENERAL CAO ZUN!


CHASE THEM DOWN!

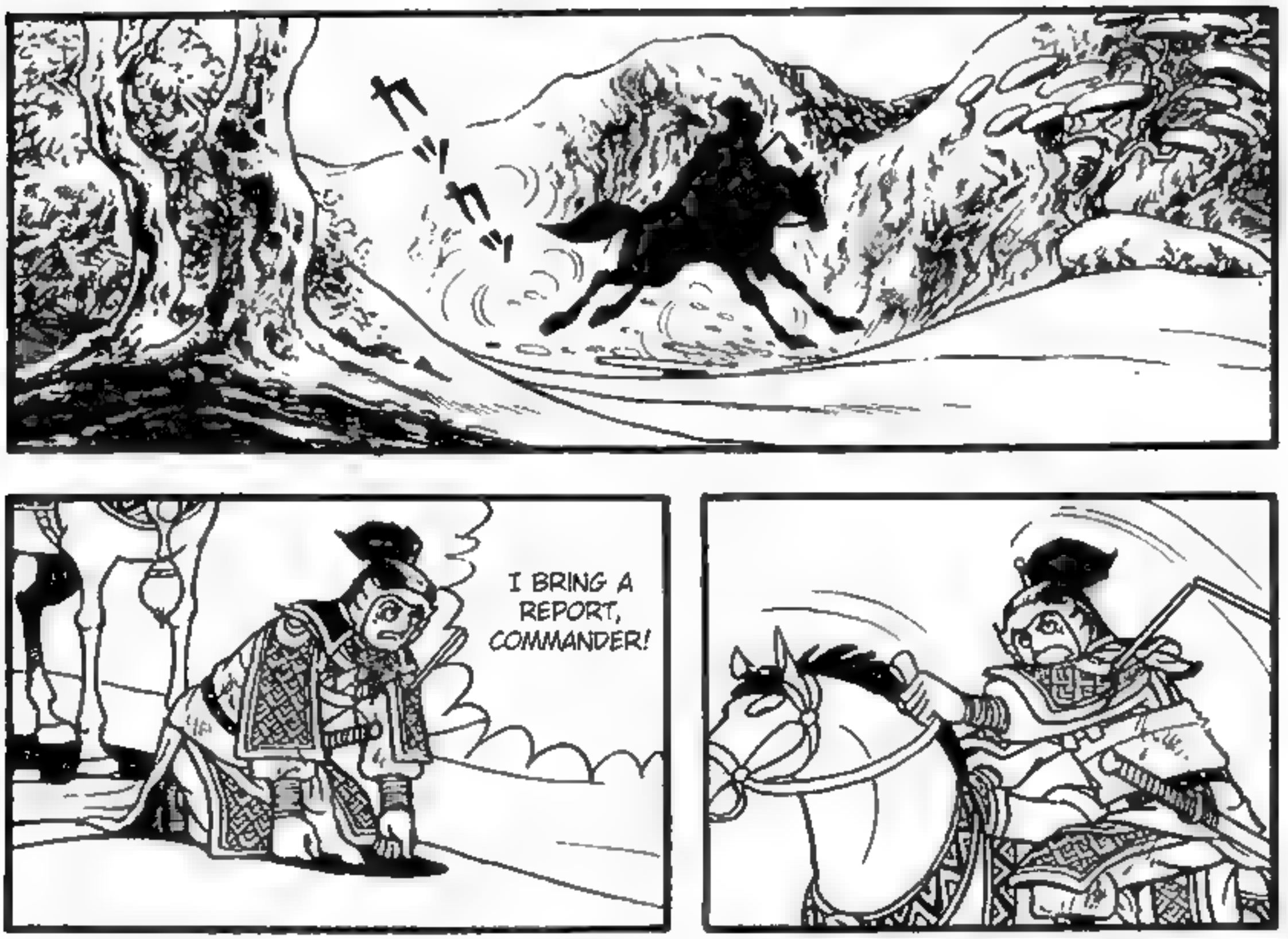

MEANWHILE, ZHU ZAN'S FORCES WERE AMBUSHED BY ZHAO ZILONG'S FORCES

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ZHAO ZILONG!?

WHICH OF YOU REBEL SCUM WISH TO TAKE MY SPEAR!?

ZHU ZAN, TOO, WAS KILLED IN THE SHU AMBUSH.


I BRING A REPORT, COMMANDER!
WHAT!?
CAO ZUN AND HIS VANGUARD FORCES HAVE BEEN ANNHILATED BY A SHU AMBUSH LED BY WEI YAN!

URGENT REPORT!

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VANGUARD FORCES LED BY ZHU ZAN HAVE PERISHED DUE TO A SHU AMBUSH LED BY ZHAO ZILONG!

IT APPEARS THEIR WITH-DRAWAL MAY HAVE BEEN ANOTHER TRAP BY KONGMING.

ZHU ZAN DIED TOO!?

WE WILL WITHDRAW BACK TO CAMP!

AH!

AH!

GUAN XING WILL DEAL WITH YOUR TREASONOUS KIND!

DON'T LOSE HEART! WE CAN BEAT OFF THESE NUMBERS!

THEY WERE WAITING HERE TOO!

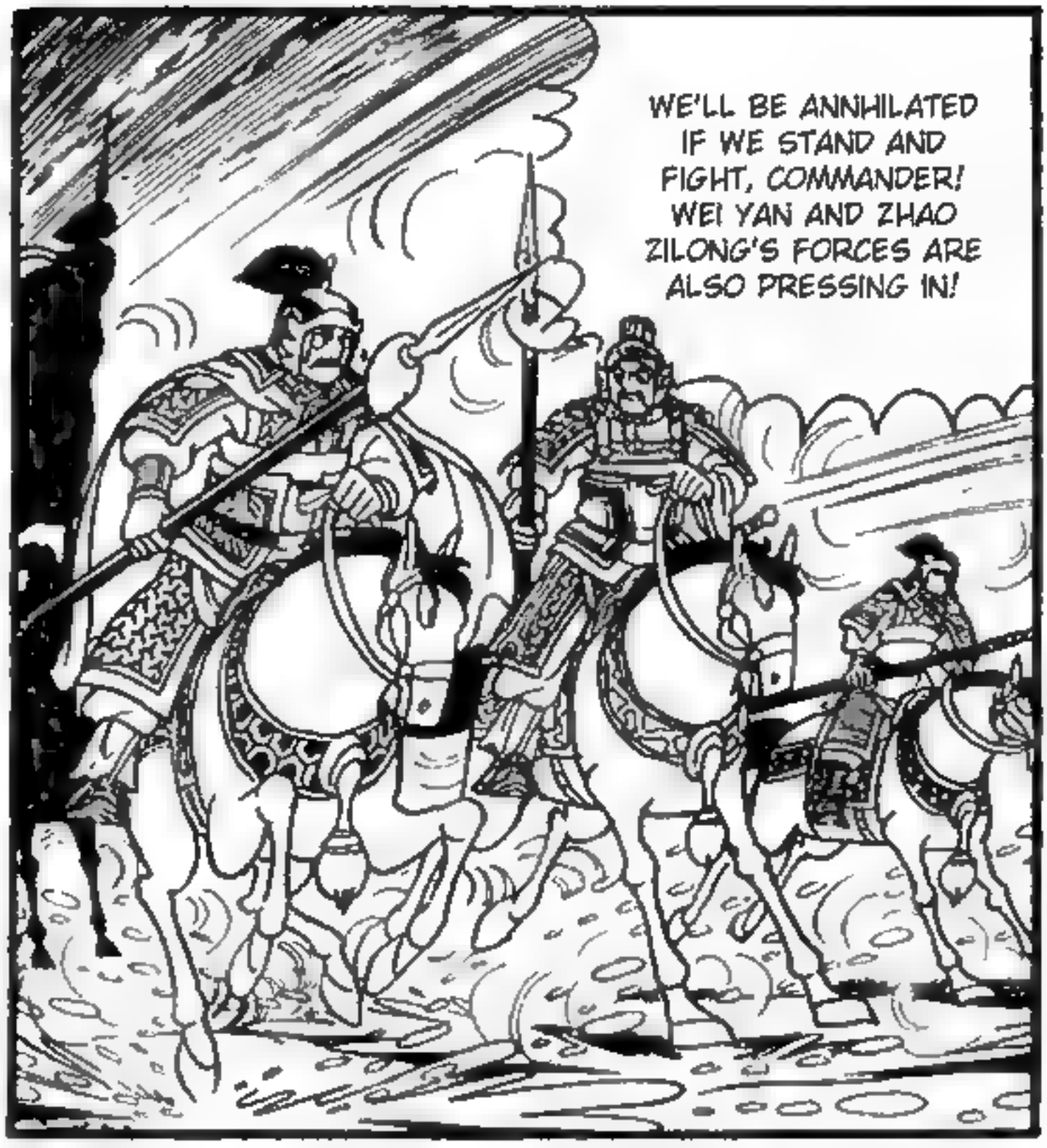
AH!

OVER THERE TOO!?

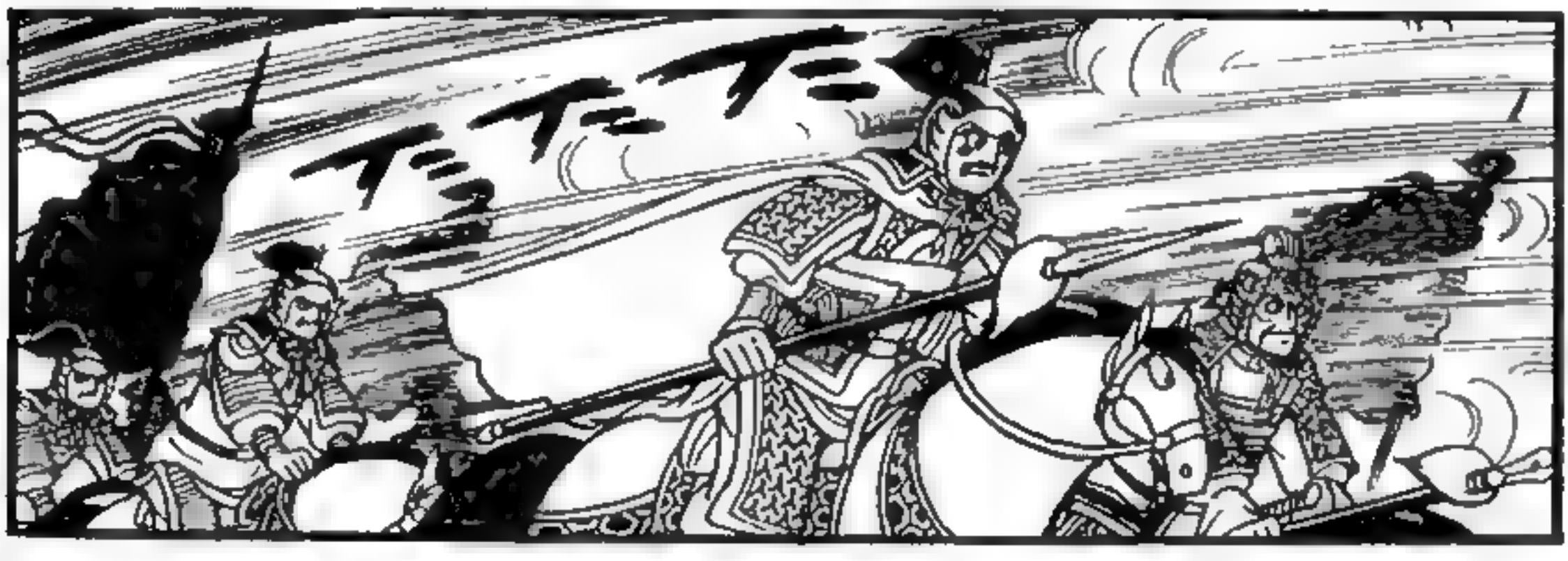
ZHANG BAO WILL SWEEP AWAY THE REBELS!



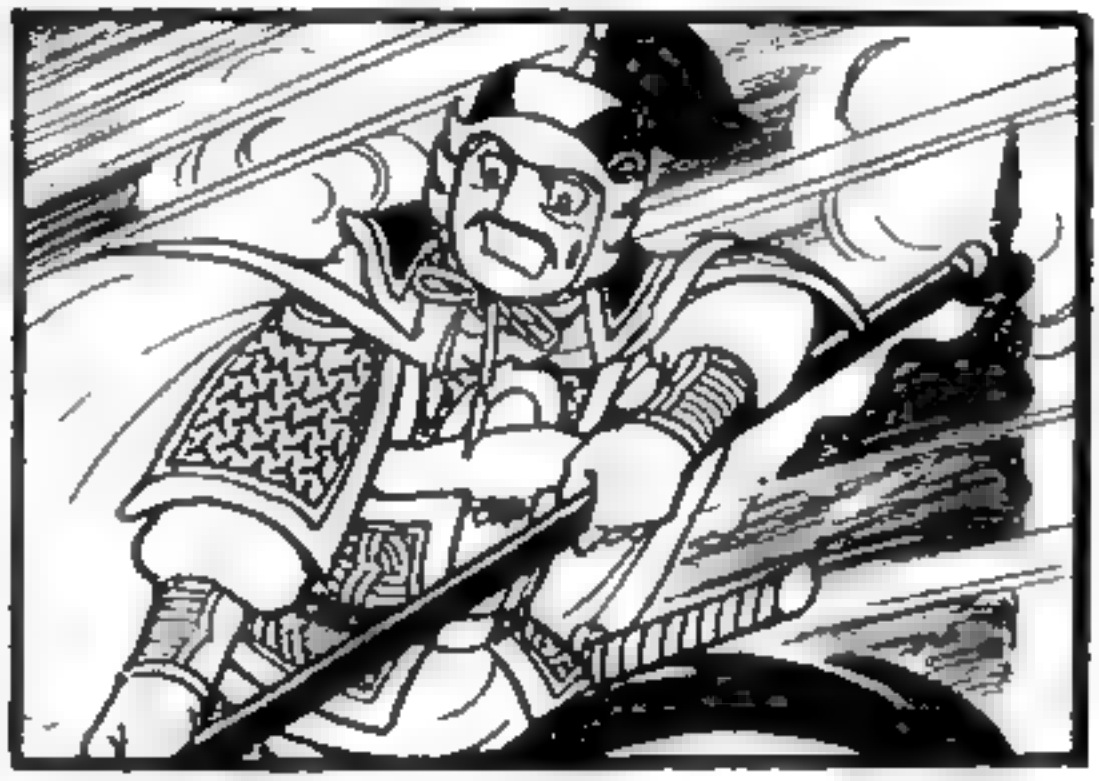

FINE, LET'S CUT OPEN A PATH AND ESCAPE!


WE'LL BE ANNHILATED IF WE STAND AND FIGHT, COMMANDER! WEI YAN AND ZHAO ZILONG'S FORCES ARE ALSO PRESSING IN!


YES, SIR!


T=T=T=






AFTER MUCH STRUGGLE, CAO ZHEN MANAGED TO ESCAPE FROM THE SHU ENVELOPMENT


HOWEVER, THE WEI ARMY HAD LOST TOO MANY TROOPS BY THEN TO BE CAPABLE OF HOLDING OFF THE ENEMIES AT THE BANKS OF WEI RIVER. THUS, CAO ZHEN WAS FORCED TO ABANDON HIS POSITION AND RETREAT ONCE MORE

THE WORSENING CRISIS ON THE WESTERN FRONT,

WAS REPORTED AT ONCE BACK TO THE WEI CAPITAL OF LUOYANG

UNFORTUNATELY, OUR FORCES HAVE SUFFERED ANOTHER DEFEAT, YOUR MAJESTY.

ANOTHER URGENT REPORT?

YES...

CAO ZHEN LOST AGAIN?

YES, ALL CAPTURED BY THE ENEMIES.

THEN OUR ARMY'S CAMPS ALONG THE RIVER BANK WERE...

DESPITE THE CALL FOR AID TO THE WESTERN QIANG, THEY PROMPTLY WITHDREW AFTER BEING DEFEATED BY SHU. ANOTHER WEI DEFEAT FOLLOWED SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, RESULTING IN THE DEATHS OF GENERALS CAO ZUN AND ZHU ZAN. COMMANDER CAO ZHEN REPORTS THE WEI RIVER IS NOW LOST TO THE ENEMIES.

GUANZHONG WILL BE SOON RUN OVER AS WELL!

AT THIS RATE, WE'LL LOSE EVEN CHANG'AN!

I BELIEVE YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTY'S PERSONAL PRESENCE IS REQUIRED TO BOLSTER THE LOW MORALE OF OUR ARMIES.

WHAT CAN I DO? PLEASE LEND ME YOUR WISDOM, SENIOR MINISTERS.

IF YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTY HEADS TO THE FRONT-LINES AND ANOTHER MILITARY DISASTER WERE TO BEFALL, THEN ALL OF WEI MIGHT CRUMBLE.

I DISAGREE WITH HUA XIN'S PROPOSAL.

WHO IS THIS MAN!? TELL ME, ZHONG YAO!

IF CAO ZHEN HAS BEEN DEFEATED SEVERAL TIMES BY ZHUGE LIANG, THAT SIMPLY MEANS HE IS NO MATCH. THERE IS NOW ONLY ONE MAN WHO CAN POSSIBLY FIGHT EVENLY AGAINST ZHUGE LIANG.

WHAT!? SIMA YI!?

SIMA YI ZHONGDA!

IT IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE EVIDENT WITH TIME THAT SIMA YI'S SO-CALLED TREASON WAS A NEFARIOUS SHU PLOT.

BUT WASN'T HE INVOLVED IN THAT TREASON AFFAIR...?

IS THAT SO...?

THE FACT THAT ZHUGE LIANG IMMEDIATELY BEGAN HIS CAMPAIGN UPON SIMA YI'S DISMISSAL LENDS CREDENCE TO THIS BELIEF.

NOW THAT YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT, IT DOES MAKE SENSE...

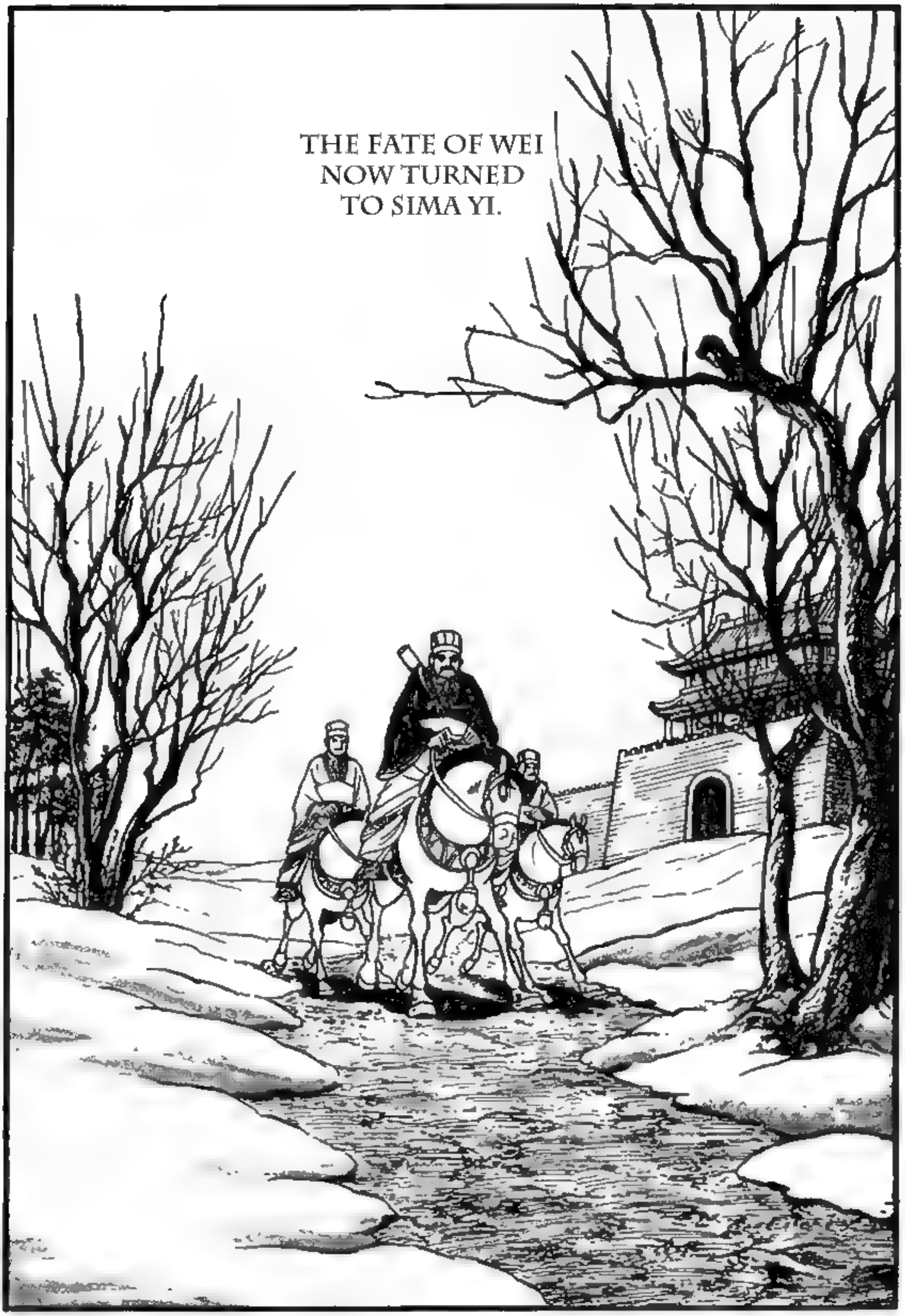
IT PROVES THAT ZHUGE LIANG FEARS ONLY ONE MAN IN WEI, AND THAT MAN IS SIMA YI!

SIMA YI IS A LOYAL MAN WHO STRIVES TO DO HIS DUTIES FOR OUR STATE. HE WILL RESPOND AT ONCE WITHOUT A DOUBT.

BUT AFTER DISGRACING AND SHAMING SIMA YI SO, WILL HE RESPOND TO MY CALL?

RETURN ALL PREVIOUS TITLES AND RANK HELD BY SIMA YI. IN ADDITION, I HEREBY APPOINT HIM AS THE NEW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE WESTERN FORCES AND CONFER THE TITLE, GENERAL WHO CONQUERS THE WEST. ASK HIM TO IMMEDIATELY ASSEMBLE OUR FORCES IN NANYANG AND MARCH TO CHANG'AN. I, TOO, WILL PERSONALLY GO TO CHANG'AN.

YES, YOUR MAJESTY.


THE FATE OF WEI
NOW TURNED
TO SIMA YI.




WHAT ARE YOU PACING NERVOUSLY AROUND FOR, FATHER?



YOU MEAN THE DEFEATS AT WEI RIVER?

HAVE YOU NOT HEARD OUR VERY EMPIRE IS IN A CRISIS?

THOSE FEARS WILL VANISH ONCE YOU TAKE THE STAGE.

YES, CAO ZHEN WAS DECISIVELY DEFEATED AND NOW IT'S BECOMING MORE AND MORE LIKELY THAT KONGMING WILL PENETRATE ALL THE WAY TO CHANG'AN, IF NOT OUR CAPITAL LUOYANG!

ME? TAKE THE STAGE?

WORRY NOT, FATHER. YOUR TIME WILL COME.

DO NOT JEST. I AM AN EXILED NO-NAME WHO HAS LOST ALL HIS TITLES AND RANK.

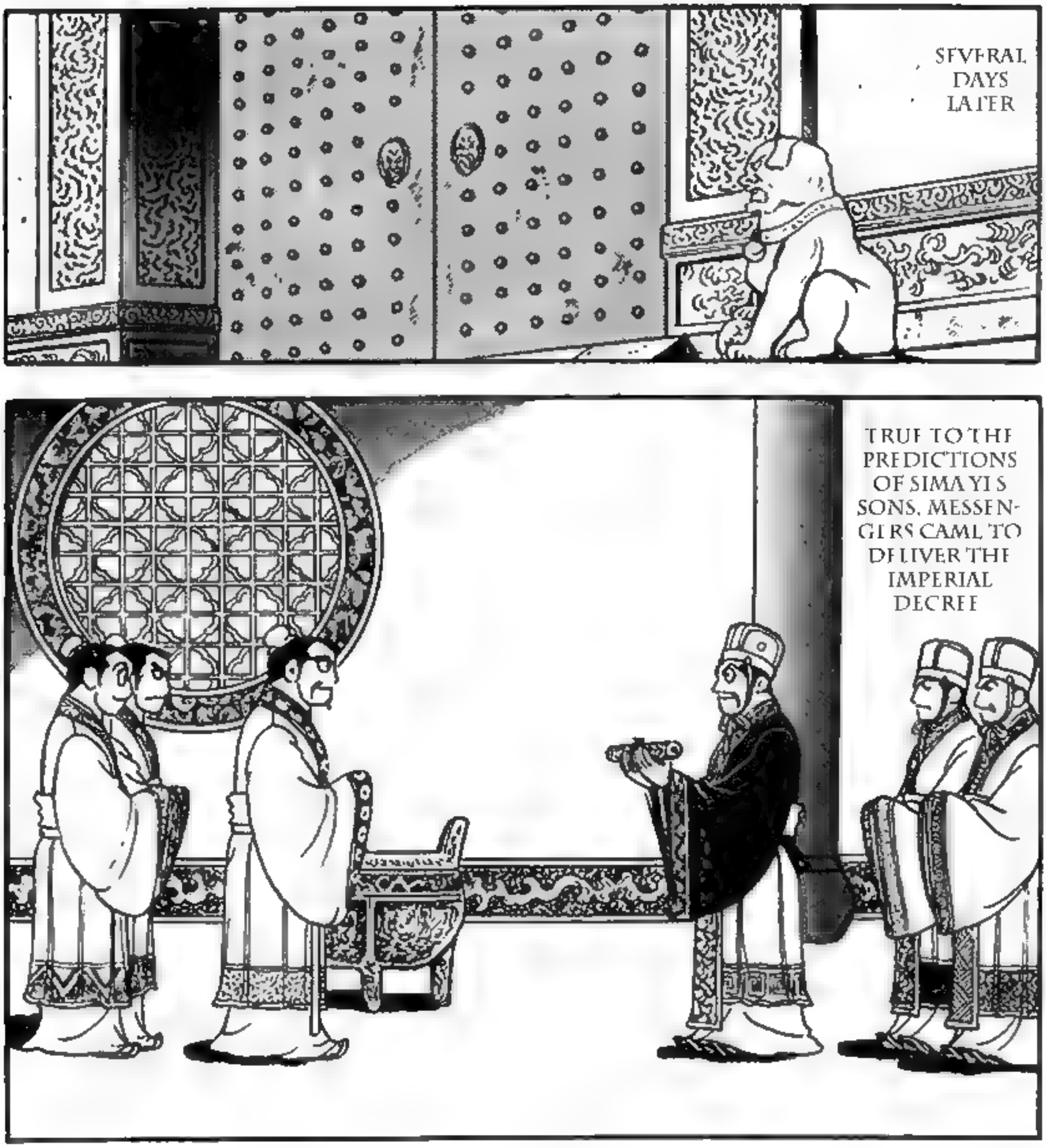

THE ONLY MAN IN ALL OF WEI WHO CAN DEAL WITH KONGMING IS OUR FATHER.

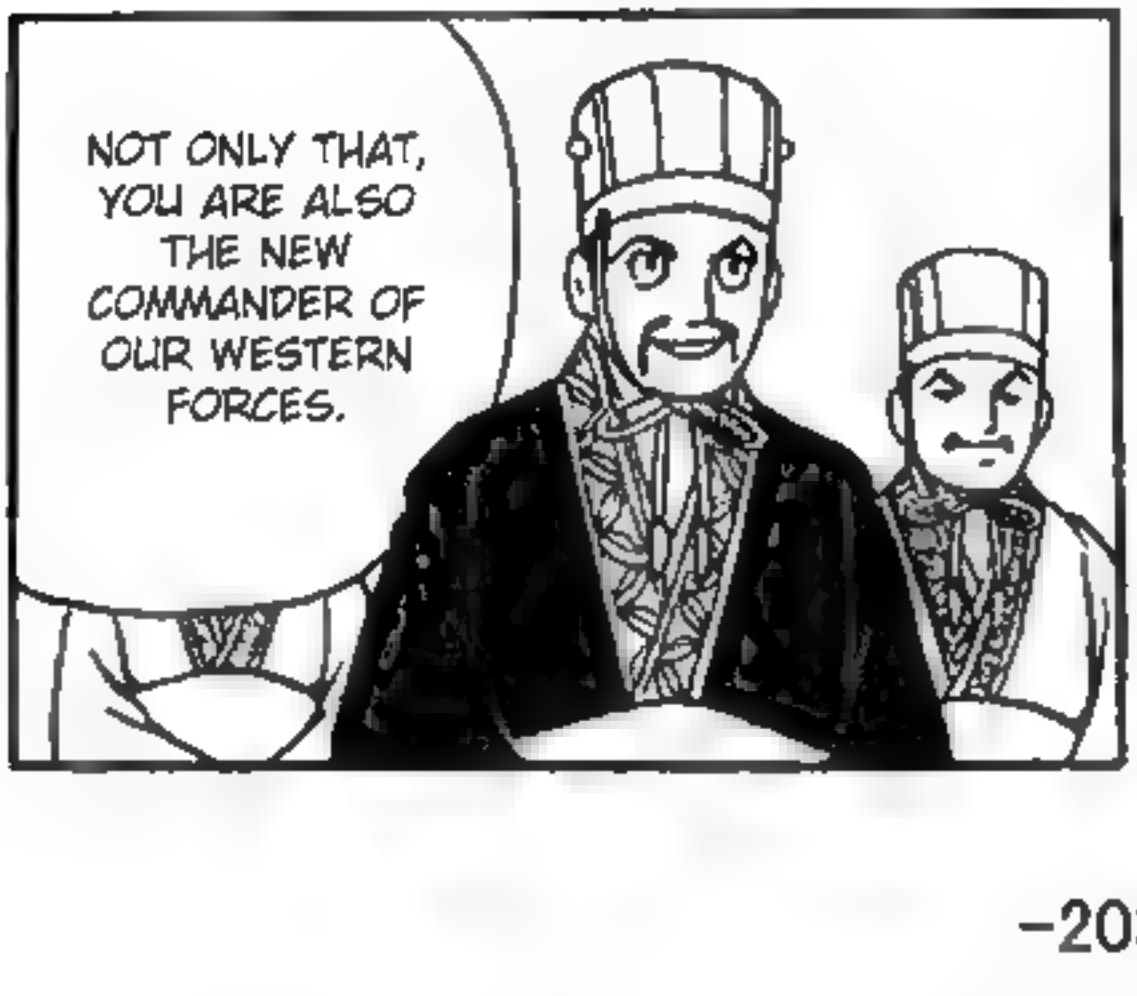

PARDON?


TRYING TO CONSOLE YOUR FATHER, I SEE...


YES, AND I DOUBT THE CURRENT MINISTERS ARE STUPID ENOUGH TO NOT REALIZE THAT.


JUST WAIT AT EASE FOR YOUR CHANCE TO COME, FATHER.
NO, NO. WE MAY BE YOUR SONS, BUT THIS IS NO MERE FLATTERY.


SEVERAL DAYS LATER
TRUE TO THE PREDICTIONS OF SIMA YI'S SONS, MESSENGERS CAME TO DELIVER THE IMPERIAL DECREE


NOT ONLY THAT, YOU ARE ALSO THE NEW COMMANDER OF OUR WESTERN FORCES.


MY FORMER TITLES AND RANK ARE ALL TO BE RETURNED...?

UNDER-STOOD.

YOU ARE TO ASSEMBLE THE TROOPS OF NANYANG AND HEAD TO CHANG'AN AT ONCE.

I PROMISE NOT TO FAIL HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY.

THE EMPEROR HIMSELF IS PLACING HIS HOPES ON YOU, SIMA YI.

...

WHAT DID WE TELL YOU, FATHER?

WE DID NOT GUESS, FATHER. IT WAS THE ONLY LOGICAL CONCLUSION, AS ONLY YOU CAN STAND UP TO KONGMING.

YES, YOUR GUESSES WERE RIGHT.

OUR PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE AND WE'VE ALREADY SENT WORD TO ASSEMBLE THE NANYANG FORCES.

WELL ENOUGH FLATTERY. WE MUST PREPARE TO DEPART AT ONCE.

CONSIDERING THE CURRENT CRISIS, I'VE ALERTED THE NANYANG OFFICERS TO PREPARE TO BE CALLED UP TO THE FRONTLINES VERY SOON.

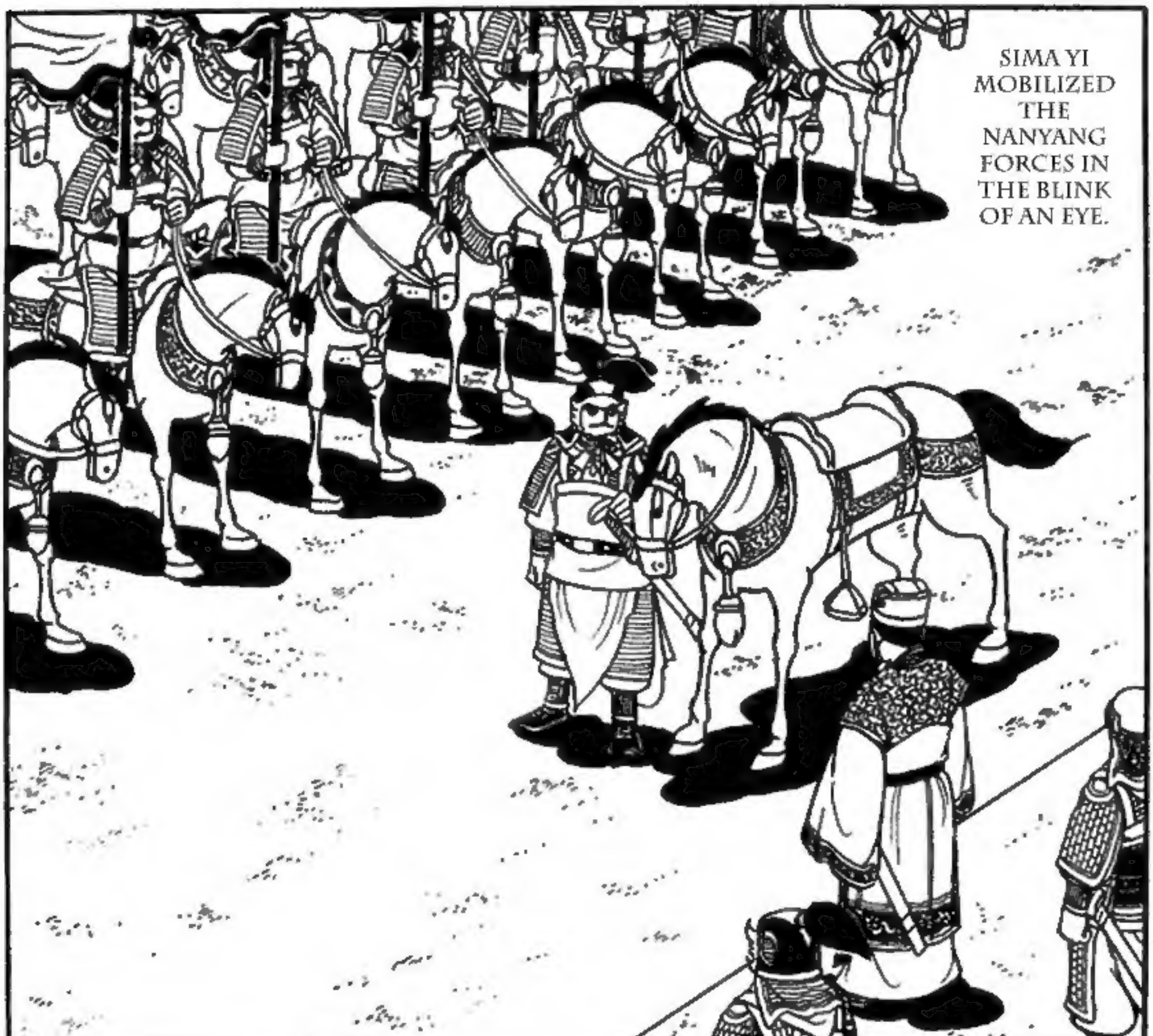
WHAT!?

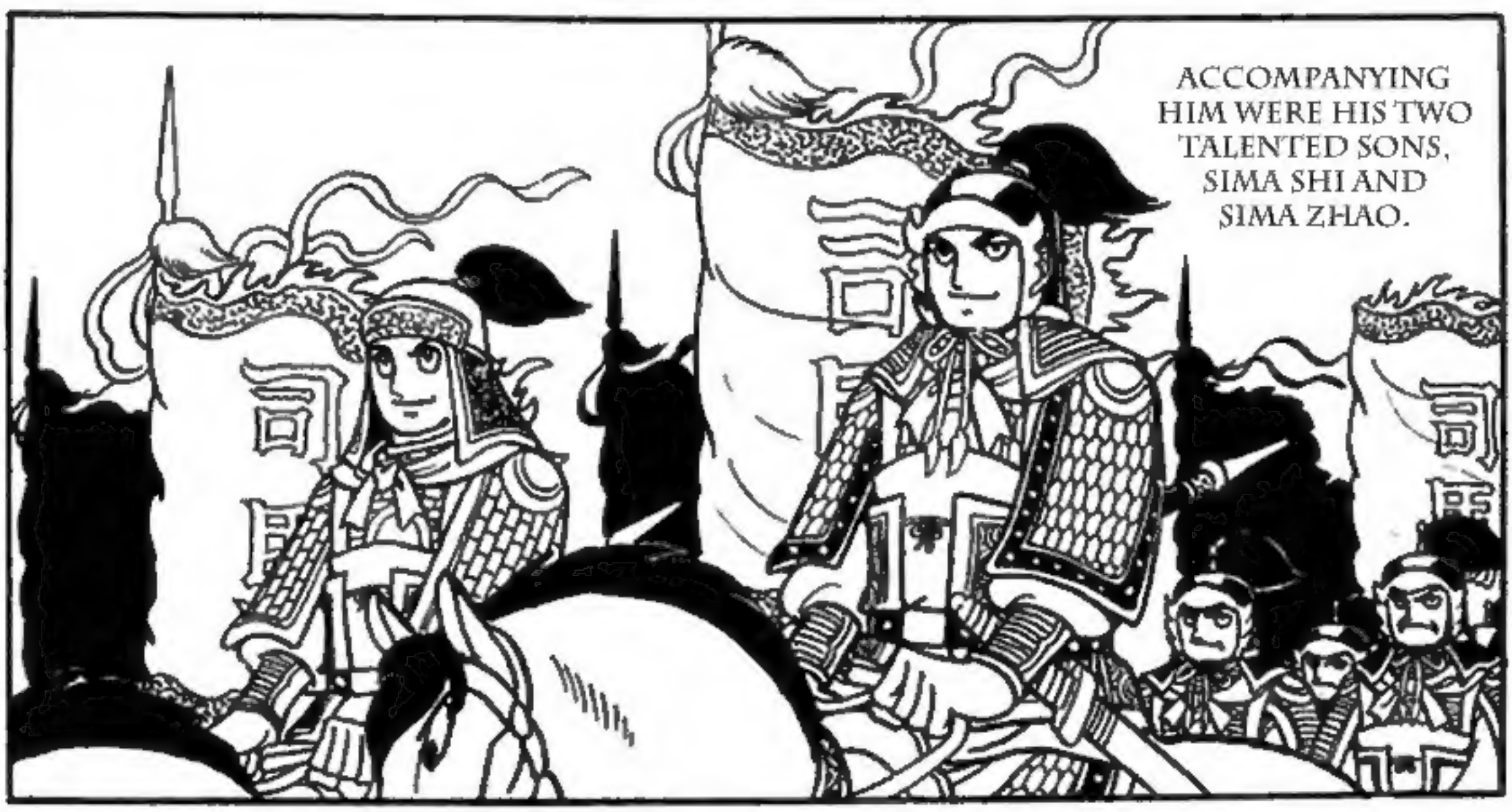
I SEE... THEN SEND ANOTHER WORD SAYING THAT THE TIME IS NOW.

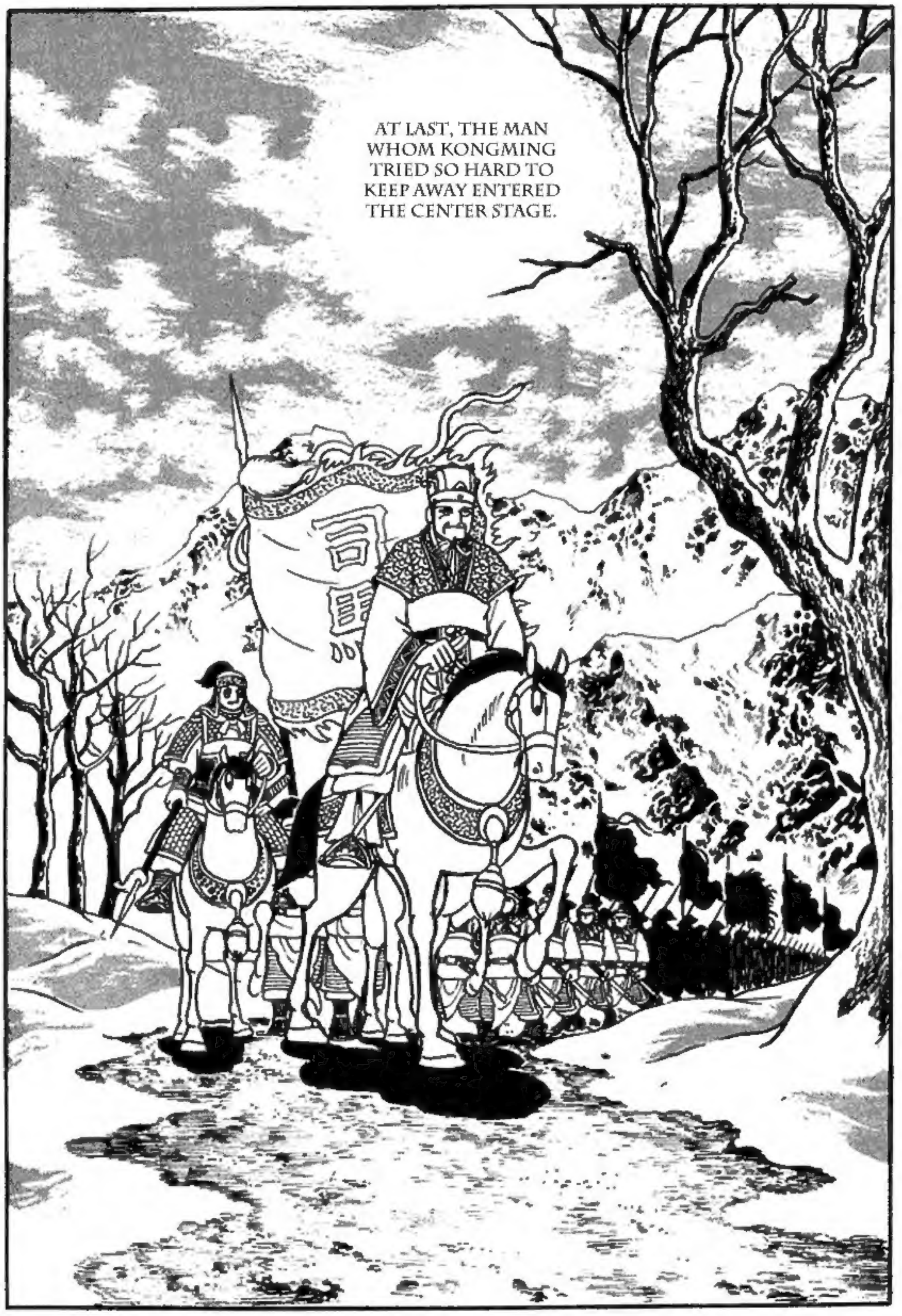



YES, FATHER.


IT SEEMS I'VE BEEN BLESSED WITH QILIN-CHILDREN OF MY OWN...


SIMA YI MOBILIZED THE NANYANG FORCES IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.


ACCOMPANYING HIM WERE HIS TWO TALENTED SONS, SIMA SHI AND SIMA ZHAO.




TRANSLATED BY HOX

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電子書籍版

# 三国志

# 51

## 横山 光輝

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